





## Somali kidnappers free aid worker

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Somali hostage-takers have freed French aid worker Rudy Maroq, held captive for 37 days, U.N. and European Union (EU) officials said here Sunday, in a move seen as encouraging for aid agencies planning to stay after U.N. troops pull out in March.

Mr. Maroq, 24, an employee of the French aid agency International Action Against Famine (AICF), was freed late Saturday and spent the night in the new U.N. headquarters at Mogadishu airport before being flown to Nairobi early Sunday on board a World Food Programme flight.

AICF officials insisted that no ransom was paid for the release of the aid agency hostage who was in good health and had been well treated, building up a strong rapport with his captors.

"My conditions in detention were good," Mr. Maroq said on arrival in Nairobi. "I was well treated, properly fed with noodles and fish. They (the kidnappers) got me drinking water every day."

"I changed house four times and was kept locked up in a room each time. I had a mattress and towards the end I even had a bed: Unbelievable luxury."

In Mogadishu, the kidnappers were also allowed to go free and two of them, Hassan Warsame and Slad Khalif Qul Qul, backed Maroq's reports telling AFP here that their hostage was "a man of strong moral discipline... A brave young man who could adjust himself to any sort of life."

Observers in Mogadishu fear a renewal of fighting between groups led by Mohammed Ali Aided and his rival Ali Madhi Mohammed when U.N. troops complete their March withdrawal, but said Sunday the Frenchman's release could be a sign that faction fighting were coming under greater control.

U.N. and aid agency officials, delighted by the release, claimed it had happened as a direct result of their announcement last week that they were suspending all but emergency operations in Mogadishu until Mr. Maroq was freed.

"It worked. The kidnappers were put under heavy pressure by the Somalis and they had to give in," said a delighted Fernando Zamasso, the Italian director of the World Food Programme in Somalia.

Jean-Luc Bodin, head of AICF operations, agreed: "The pressure worked. The kidnappers gave in. It's great for the future of Somalia," he said.

Warlord Aided, who controls much of southern Mogadishu, also applied pressure for Mr. Maroq's release but Mr. Zamasso said he did not know how much success this had had.

More pressure was applied by clan leaders.



SUICIDE BLASTS: Plastic covered bodies lie on the ground where police experts examine the scene of a bombing in the Beit Lid junction Sunday where two bombs exploded (see page one) (AFP photo)

## European, N. African ministers announce security accord

TUNIS (R) — Security ministers from four European countries and two North African states have pledged to intensify efforts to fight Muslim fundamentalist violence.

Even as they deliberated, Muslim militants shot dead the president of Algeria's football federation as he left his Algiers home, the official APS news agency reported.

France's Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, Italy's Antonio Brancaccio, Portugal's Manuel Dias Loureiro, Spain's Secretary of State for the Interior Margarita Robles, Algerian Interior Minister Abdul Rahman Meziane Cherif, and Tunisia's Abdul Kallal attended the meeting.

The ministers... solemnly and firmly condemned terrorism, fundamentalism and every form of extremism and fanaticism and appeal for an end of violence because only civil peace will allow economic and social development," a joint statement issued at the end of the meeting said.

The ministers said they have "decided to increase the exchange of information and their cooperation on the bilateral and multilateral levels, to fight the various forms of crimes... increasingly linked to terrorism and fundamentalism," it said.

"There is a necessity for us to have a comprehensive approach to these problems," Mr. Pasqua said.

"The results are extremely positive, because it is the first time four European ministers and two Maghreb states have agreed to together condemn terrorism, fundamentalism and fanaticism," Mr. Cherif told Reuters.

In Algeria, violence pitting army-backed authorities against Muslim fundamentalists has raged for three years, killing up to 30,000 people since the authorities canceled an election in 1992 that fundamentalists had been poised to win.

On Saturday, the APS news agency said football federation chief Rachid Harague, 58, married with two children, died shortly after being shot. Algerian Radio said he had been building up the sports movement as a "rampart against terrorism."

In a separate dispatch APS said security forces had killed 20 Muslim guerrillas in a week-long sweep.

Western European countries worry that violence in North Africa could spread to them.

France, which fears a fundamentalist threat within its Muslim community of about 4.5 million people, and Spain last year said they would step up security controls and border checks to counter Muslim guerrillas.

France and Algeria were both involved in the hijack of a French airliner by the Islamic Armed Group (GIA), the most violent of Algeria's rebel groups. French commandos stormed the aircraft in Marseille, killing the four hijackers and freeing the passengers.

Tunisia crushed its fundamentalist movement in 1991, and has since urged European countries, especially France and Britain, to extradite their exiled fundamentalist activists.

Morocco is reported to have 30 active fundamentalist groups. This month the trial started in the city of Fez of 18 alleged fundamentalists, six of them carrying French passports, who are accused of carrying out attacks, including one in which two Spanish tourists were killed.

Morocco, invited to the Tunis meeting, dubbed "4+2," did not take part, to the surprise of diplomats.

In Rabat, a Foreign Ministry spokesman quoted by the Moroccan news agency MAP said that Morocco was not participating. He did not elaborate.

The talks went ahead as "4+2."

## Kurds say mediation failing

ANKARA (Agencies) — Peace talks between rival Iraqi Kurdish groups who have shelled each other in recent days are faltering over control of a key city, Iraqi Kurdish sources said on Sunday.

"Negotiations are not going well, in fact there is tension," Shazad Saib, the Ankara representative of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), said.

Minor clashes between the PUK and the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) broke out on Friday around the northern Iraqi towns of Sadiq and Shanayir, near the Iranian border, and Gomaspan, further west, Mr. Saib said.

"There were artillery exchanges near Gomaspan but the fighting wasn't very important," he said. Mr. Saib could give no casualty figures.

He said a 60-member committee, made up of PUK and KDP delegates was trying to persuade the factions' leaders to declare a ceasefire.

Mr. Saib said the PUK was prepared to meet a KDP demand that it withdraw from Erbil but would not hand the city over to its rival.

"We are willing to pull out of Erbil but we want to give it to the local police force and not the KDP," he said.

The PUK, led by Jalal Talabani, and the KDP of Massoud Barzani have shared power in northern Iraq since a 1992 election.

The rival groups have clashed frequently in and around Erbil, the seat of Kurdish power in northern Iraq, in the last year. The latest round of fighting began in mid-December.

The Kurds set up a regional government in Erbil after breaking away from Baghdad's authority following the Gulf war in 1991. They are protected from Iraqi government forces by a Western allied air force based in southern Turkey.

KDP radio, meanwhile, charged that PUK forces were shelling Suleimaniya in northeastern Iraq, killing civilians and damaging homes.

Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz on Saturday urged the warring Kurds to accept President Saddam Hussein's offer to mediate.

## Armed guards ride train to Egypt's tourist sites

ON BOARD TRAIN 84, Egypt (AFP) — Tourist train number 84 reached to pull out of Cairo station under tight security, as it does every night for its 900-kilometre journey south.

Armed policemen, many with dogs, patrolled the platforms as tourists slipped past the guards and the bustling crowds loaded down with string-tied suitcases and boxes of ducking chickens.

Egyptians had to show their tickets and some were searched.

The trip from Cairo to Aswan in Upper Egypt costs around \$85, about the same as a plane ticket, for a night's accommodation complete with dinner in an atmosphere reminiscent of the Orient Express.

Alcoholic drinks flow liberally on the train run by the Compagnie Francaise des Wagons-Lits.

A normal train fare costs \$15, but most are off-limits to tourists for security reasons.

Stewards were posted at the front of each carriage, police inspected compartments and the train left accompanied by guards armed with assault rifles in engine rooms at the front and the back.

The 15-hour journey passes through the heartland of Muslim militants, who have been campaigning to topple the government since March 1992 in a bloody conflict which has left almost 600 dead, including 12 tourists.

Earlier in January, the very same train was attacked just north of Luxor and two Argentine tourists and four Egyptians were wounded.

But the tight security a week later surprised many of the 140 passengers, including 80 tourists, mostly Russians and Argentines, seated in separate compartments from the rest of the train.

"It frightens me," said 68-year-old American Betty Graham, but one Australian woman who did not want to be named found it reassuring.

Texas Michelle Ewart, 29, said: "I wrote my will before leaving."

But some of those questioned had been told of the dangers by their travel agency, even though many embassies in Cairo warn their nationals not to journey to Upper Egypt by road or train.

One U.S. tourist was surprised the train stopped shortly afterwards at Giza, saying she had been assured it went straight through to Luxor.

But later as the tourists slept it stopped again first in Asyut, 400 kilometres down the line and a former militant stronghold, and then in Qena, 200 kilometres further south.

From there it sped on towards Luxor passing swiftly through the area where trains have been the target of attack, most of them claimed by the outlawed Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah.

So far one person has died and 40 were wounded in attacks on Train 84, 10 of them tourists.

At the end of December a policeman was killed when militants boarded the train, changing their usual pattern of firing at it from below with automatic weapons before fleeing into the dense cover of nearby sugar-cane fields.

"We are waiting to die," said one fatalistic steward.

But this time, the journey was completed without anything more serious than a blocked door between two carriages.

## Egyptian police kill new Gamaa Al Islamiyah chief

CAIRO (AFP) — Police shot and killed the new head of the outlawed fundamentalist Gamaa Islamiyah group in southern Egypt on Sunday as the death toll in three years of unrest rose to more than 600, police said.

Mahmoud Selim, 29, became Gamaa leader after police killed former chiefs Talaat Yassin Hamam in April and Hassan Abdul Galil in October, they added.

Selim, a former teacher who had been hunted by police for years, was shot dead along with his bodyguard Taleb Bakht Betouhi in a gunbattle in the southern Egyptian town of Sohag, 500 kilometres south of Cairo.

"Mahmoud Selim was the main terrorist leader and police were hunting him for years for having organised and carried out 36 attacks throughout Egypt since 1992," police said.

"He was the mastermind of the terrorist Gamaa Islamiyah and gave orders to carry out attacks throughout Egypt."

"He carried out dozens of terrorist crimes and was responsible for most attacks in Upper Egypt, in Assiut, Sohag and Qena."

Police also said they arrested Gamaa's military chief in Sohag, Abdul Fatah Abu Deif, and 37 other militants.

The double shooting raised to 604 the death toll since March 1992 when Islamic militants launched a campaign of violence to topple the secular government of President Hosni Mubarak.

"It was one of the most important anti-terrorist operations in the last several months because they were very dangerous elements," police said.

## The galloping bozkhashi horsemen of northern Afghanistan

MAZAR-E-SHARIF (AFP) — A chunk of meat the size of a fillet steak came flying out of the melee to be snatched up by a fleet-footed Afghan youth who had dashed out of the cheering crowd.

The meat had been ripped from a decapitated animal carcass lying beneath the stamping hooves of thirty horses, as riders leaned low in their saddles trying to snatch the macabre prize from the ground.

This was a difficult task because the horses reared and rammed into each other as the riders, dressed in fur coats, padded overcoats and knee-high leather boots, slashed with whips and bludgeoned each other with their elbows.

A cross between polo and a gladiator combat, the Afghan winter sport of bozkhashi literally means "goat-grabbing," although calves, some weighing up to 50 kilograms, are more commonly used.

The object of the game is to pluck the headless calf from a circle painted on the ground, cut through a throng of some 200 mounted novices hanging out on the periphery of the main players, and ride like fury to a distant flag, then return and drop the calf in the circle again.

Played by the Uzbeks, Tajiks and Turkmen of northern Afghanistan, bozkhashi is a cultural relic of ancient nomadic ancestors, who some say preferred live prisoners-of-war to dead animals for the sport.

The game sounds simple enough but it is very dangerous to play and requires great skill to "score a goal" for although Afghans pretend bozkhashi is played by two teams, most players scorn the benefits of group cooperation for the greater glory of solo victory.

In true Afghan tradition, personal competition is fierce, and the only true team-work in bozkhashi is between the master-players — called chapandaz — and their specially trained horses, which are valued as high as \$15,000 each.

One of the horsemen broke free from the mob with the calf wedged under his leg and dashed at full gallop across the open plain towards the flag as challengers followed in hot pursuit.

Whips in mouths and steering their mounts by their stirrups, two riders each fought with both hands in a tug-of-war for possession of the calf, until one broke free, wheeled around the flag and charged back to the circle to drop the carcass.

The judges passed over wads of cash prize-money as a herald bawled the winner's name out loud and other players, who perhaps rode interference for the winner, crowded in to claim a share of the money.

Children peddled locally-made popcorn and smuggled Afghan cigarettes as the bozkhashi sponsor announced a new prize.

During the frenzy all over again and continuing until the carcass was reduced to a ragged fleshless pelt.

Bozkhashi was often used as a metaphor to describe the cold war struggle between the superpowers in which Afghanistan itself was the contested prize.

But sadly, long after the Soviet Red Army and the defeat of the Afghan communists, the imagery is still appropriate.

In April 1992 the mujahideen captured Kabul but competing factions are still engaged in a bloody struggle for absolute power.

If the current grab for Kabul proves as difficult as bozkhashi, then the capital faces the same fate as the carcass — total annihilation.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**UAE reports 15 marine accidents**

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Tanker collisions and leaks from oil terminals caused 15 marine pollution accidents in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in 1994, an official report said on Saturday. The worst accident occurred in March off the eastern port of Fujairah, when nearly 15,000 tonnes of crude spilled into the Gulf Ocean after two tankers collided, the report by the coastguard authorities said.

Other accidents involved damage to oil pipelines and loading terminals but were not serious, the report said. Six accidents occurred in Dubai, five in Abu Dhabi and the rest in the other five emirates. The report made no mention of daily dumping of sludge and other waste by tankers cleaning their oil storage tanks.

**Saddam uses a double — Sunday Times**

LONDON (AFP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein employs a double to avoid being assassinated during public appearances. The Sunday Times reported. The paper said the double whose real name was Fawaz Al Emani had been given plastic surgery to make him look even more like the Iraqi leader. The Sunday Times carried on its front page a photograph widely published two years ago purporting to show President Saddam bathing in the Tigris River. The legend underneath the photo said: "Guess who? No, it's not Saddam Hussein." The paper's report said: "The first confirmation of what had previously only been suspected comes from an army officer who was himself forced to act as the double for Uday," the Iraqi leader's eldest son. Latif Yahia acted as Uday's double for four years before managing to escape from Iraq and flee to Vienna where he obtained political asylum, the report said. Mr. Yahia was quoted as saying that President Saddam's first double was killed in 1984 when a car-bomb exploded as the double was travelling in a car from Baghdad to Tikrit, President's birthplace.

**Freed Briton flown to Pakistan**

KABUL (AFP) — British national Edean Fernandez who was held captive by an Afghan Shiite faction in west Kabul for eight months was flown out of Afghanistan on a special Red Cross flight Sunday. "We were requested by British diplomats present in Kabul to fly Fernandez out of Afghanistan which we gladly accepted on humanitarian grounds," said Peter Stocker, Kabul chief of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Mr. Fernandez was released Saturday by the Shiite Hezb-e-Wahdat faction leader Abdul Ali Mazari into the custody of Pakistan-based British diplomat Stephen Evans.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR			
<b>JORDAN TELEVISION</b> Tel: 773111-19  <b>PROGRAMME TWO</b> 17:00 ..... Cocottes Minutes 17:30 ..... Que Le Mieux Gagne 18:00 ..... Gernation Sensation 18:30 ..... Le Monde Fantastique Des Enfants 19:00 ..... News In French 19:15 ..... Magazine Sportif 19:30 ..... Boogies Diner 20:00 ..... Black Beauty 20:30 ..... Street Hawk 21:00 ..... Shades of L.A. 22:00 ..... News In English 22:30 ..... Louisiana  <b>PRAYER TIMES</b> 05:00 ..... Fajr 05:27 ..... (Sunrise) Duha 11:07 ..... Dhuhr 14:38 ..... Asr 17:03 ..... Maghrib 18:23 ..... Isha  <b>CHURCHES</b> St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632725 St. Joseph Church Tel. 624900 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637400 De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 			
<b>USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS</b> <b>NIGHT DUTY</b> 			
<b>WEATHER</b> 			
<b>EMERGENCIES</b> 			
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<b>FOR THE TRAVELLER</b> 			
<b>QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT</b> 			
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"It frightens me," said  
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said: "I wrote my will before  
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But none of those  
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One U.S. tourist was  
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# Home News

## Queen receives 'International Award for the Promotion of Development, Democracy and Peace'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor returned to Jordan Saturday night from a working visit to the United States, a Royal Court statement said Sunday.

At a ceremony at the United Nations on Friday, the National Organisation of Arab-American Women (NOAAAW) presented the Queen with the "International Award for the Promotion of Development, Democracy and Peace." United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) Director-General Nafis Sadik, represented the U.N. secretary general at the ceremony, which was also attended by several government officials, heads and members of diplomatic missions and prominent members of the Arab-American community.

In her address at the United Nations, Queen Noor reviewed some of the possibilities Jordan envisages for the emerging Middle East and emphasised the "increasingly relevant role of women and of organisations such as NOAAAW to our (the Kingdom's) quest for a new society in this era of transformation," the Royal Court statement said.

Speaking of the Arab World, the Queen said: "We must reassess our past differences and look towards reinforcing national achievements and strengths with the immeasurable greater forces of integration and economics of scale; and we must develop a common vision of our future based on our shared history and strong cultural bonds."

According to the statement, Queen Noor added that "The new Middle East that we seek to pass on to our children offers the promise of peace, development and stability. But it is impossible to speak credibly of these without speaking of social justice, political participation and fundamental human rights. Our countries face the common challenge to mobilise the talents and energies of all their members to achieve economic and political development that is sustainable, equitable and responsive to real needs."

Speaking of the role of Arab women, Queen Noor, according to the statement, said that "While in all Arab societies, women still face varying degrees of legal and social obstacles to their personal development, professional fulfillment and participation in public and political life, large numbers of women have nevertheless contributed to and benefited from the development momentum of recent decades. Unlike their prevalent portrayal in the West, many Arab women are educated, deeply involved in family and local community decisions, and increasingly active in political, professional and economic life at the national level. The rising level of education of Arab girls and women has been one of the most profound and positive forces of change in our region."

Queen Noor added that "The world now has an exciting and historic opportunity to work together for human development goals which are deeply rooted in a common moral legacy of justice, humanism and peace."

The statement said the Queen expressed her concern that the "new momentum of hope and cooperation is threatened by disquieting predictions, appearing in the



discourse of Western analysts, of an inevitable and violent clash of cultures, particularly between the Islamic and Western worlds. At this moment of global change and hope, it would be a great tragedy and a tremendous waste to allow the ideological polarisation that characterised the cold war era to be replaced by a civilisational confrontation, based on ignorance and unfounded fears."

According to the statement, the Queen emphasised the role of individuals throughout the world and of international organisations in the establishment of a meaningful and constructive dialogue between the Western and Arab/Islamic worlds and in the promotion of better cross-cultural understanding.

The National Organisation of Arab-American Women is a non-profit organisation established in 1992 to promote the interests of Arab and Arab-American women in the United States, and to increase their visibility and influence and ensure their representation in American political, social, economic and academic circles.

The organisation supports educational and training activities for Arab women in the Middle East and assists them in their efforts to achieve economic, political and social advancement.

NOAAAW also serves as a focal point for the involvement of Arabs and Arab-Americans in activities that enhance opportunities for women.

## 'Developed countries should lift restraints on imports from developing countries'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb Sunday called for the lifting of what he said were conditions and restraints imposed by developed countries on imports from the developing world despite preferential trade agreements.

Mr. Abul Ragheb, addressing the opening session of a three-day seminar on how Jordan could benefit from international trade agreements, said the government was also exerting efforts to increase Jordan's exports and help local industries increase output.

"Jordan is reviewing its economic policies, and this seminar is of key importance to the country," Mr. Abul Ragheb said, noting that the gathering was dedicated to discussing the requirements and procedures related to exports under preferential trade agreements such as the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) and others.

"At a time when export promotion is a policy of most governments, and the private sector is assuming increased interest in opportunities, we find that developed countries are attaching some limitations and conditions to imports from developing countries," Mr. Abul Ragheb said. These include criteria on origin, local industrial input and other parameters as well as exclusion of some products, he noted.

"The GSP scheme has not achieved its goals," said the minister. "If the GSP goals were to be achieved, then all restrictions and limitations imposed by the developed countries on imports from the developing countries should be removed."

Mr. Abul Ragheb as well as other speakers at the seminar noted that Jordan's industrial base was relatively small and exports from the Kingdom did not pose any threat to developing countries.

GSP is a preferential trade system under which developed countries give customs-duty treatment to imports from developing countries without any reciprocal action. But most of the



Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb Sunday presides over a national seminar on the Generalised System of Preferences and other trade laws and market access conditions to Jordanian exports (Petra photo)

developing countries signatory to the accord insist on the exporters meeting what is widely seen as an ever-increasing list of requirements.

The seminar that opened Sunday at the Amman Chamber of Industry is organised by the chamber in cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). During the course of the three-day event, UNCTAD officials, European Union and U.S. representatives and local and foreign experts are scheduled to address the audience on the various aspects of international trade accords and how to implement them to the best of Jordan's advantage.

Khalidoun Abu Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, told the opening session that the Jordanian government was actively engaged in efforts to promote exports and widen the Kingdom's industrial scope by helping the private sector.

As such, he said, detailed discussions on trade agreements and practices aimed at familiarising Jordanian exporters on how to use the accord would be much more beneficial to the private sector as well as the economy as a whole if it leads to higher exports.

"The seminar is an inseparable part of the efforts to advance the national economy," he said.

Mr. Abu Hassan said Japan, the United States and Europe exported \$1,907 million worth of goods to Jordan in 1993 while the Kingdom's exports to these countries were \$79 million. Europe alone exported goods worth \$1,083 million to Jordan in 1993, while taking in \$42 million in Jordanian exports, he said, calling for stepped up efforts at all levels to address the imbalance.

Teruo Ujje, UNCTAD coordinator on technical cooperation programmes on GSP and other trade laws, described the seminar as an important activity that would help Jordan's exporters.

"The active presence of experts from various organisations at this seminar is a clear reflection of their interest in providing technical cooperation as a means to assist your country to further its external trade sector," Mr. Ujje told the meeting.

"The utilisation of the various forms of preferential trade will assist your country to gain increased market access," he said.

Diego Brasioli, charge d'affaires at the Italian embassy, noted that the decision of his government to finance the seminar "shows the interest of Italy in promoting the full advantages of trade systems in order to allow the exporters to take greater advantage of trade accords when armed with the knowledge of the theoretical and practical steps of applying them."

Quoting from the final declaration of the Oct. 30-Nov. 1 economic summit held in Casablanca on economic development of the Middle East and North Africa, Mr. Brasioli emphasised the need to lift trade barriers, including boycotts. "It is a commitment taken seriously by the government of Italy," he said.

Omar Hashem, resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Jordan, said there was "no question that preferential trade, either through GSP or bilateral treaties, creates economic incentives to the benefit of developing countries."

Noting that UNDP has financed and is continuing to fund GSP-related projects at various levels, Dr. Hashem expressed hope that "activities such as the present seminar can actively contribute to further developing a better knowledge in the country needed to achieve its objectives of development."

## Ministry to take steps to control numbers of higher education programme specialties

By Ian Atalla  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In response to the country's aching unemployment problems, a proposed council for accreditation of Jordan's college faculties will play a role in future government policy of strict control over the number of university programmes in each academic specialty which would be allowed to operate in the Kingdom, as well as the number of students each faculty may admit, Minister of Higher Education Rabeab Saoud said Sunday.

"We will strictly control the output of graduates from universities in Jordan, both the public and the private ones," Dr. Saoud told the Jordan Times.

For example, because of the current profound overflow of engineering graduates into the local job market, "we can definitely say that we may close a certain number of engineering programmes in a certain number of universities," he explained. In addition to this, "we may grant certain faculties accreditation, but tell them 'you can only accept 30 students per year in this school'."

The proposed committee, currently referred to in official legal drafts as "The Association for Accreditation of Higher Education," and tentatively due to be finalised within two weeks, would work as a sub-council answerable to the Council of Higher Education and bring "a more serious approach" to official evaluation and rating of higher education programmes in Jordan, Dr. Saoud said.

For one, he explained, it would begin work in what he felt was a currently loose area by setting up in-depth accreditation programmes for public universities. Current standards for accrediting private universities would also be raised significantly, he added.

However, although Dr. Saoud did not lay out the exact roles the proposed committee would play in enforcing strict limits in numbers and student admissions of university departments per specialty field, due to the still unfinalised nature of the committee, this, for him, was "the most significant aspect" of its task.

Throughout the previous year, Dr. Saoud has repeatedly stated that stern measures were needed to curb overflows of graduates in certain specialties where current job market openings are scant or nonexistent. He also stressed the need to boost the number of faculties and students enrolled in other specialties which are undernourished in the Kingdom — and that Jordan's higher education sector must face the tough realities of the tight local job market and its limitations.

Experts have often noted that while unemployed graduates abound in some specialties, notable among them engineering and business administration, medium-level professional technicians and specialists, as well as skilled tradespeople, are badly needed by employers but often difficult to find.

Such experts have pointed to this poor conformity of university graduates to the actual demands of the labour market, as playing a substantial hand in Jordan's soaring unemployment rate — over 18 per cent as of 1993, according to Ministry of Labour statistics.

"We will have two future goals," said Dr. Saoud. "To insure that all students who enter Jordanian universities have good scores on the

tawjih, and to oblige other students" who choose to study in Jordan "to enter programmes such as applied professional studies in the community colleges."

Thus, he hoped, the coming classes of university and college graduates would be brought into greater conformity with the actual demands of the Kingdom's job market.

Meanwhile, Dr. Saoud said that greater attention to thorough evaluation of university programmes by the new accreditation committee would bring Jordan's higher education community more in line with international standards and policies at large. "In other countries, they are much tougher on their public universities than we are here," he noted.

As well, the committee's work would most likely involve the participation of "international experts" from other Arab and foreign countries "to give their input into the evaluation programmes initiated by the committee, and into any final decisions taken by the committee on granting or withholding accreditation to individual university faculties."

## Qaqish leaves today to take up post in Iraq

### New envoy: ties with Iraq, Gulf not mutually exclusive

By Samir Barhoum  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's newly-appointed ambassador to Iraq, Bassam Qaqish, has underlined that Jordan's pursuit to improve relations with Arab Gulf countries would in no way affect its good relations with Iraq.

Mr. Qaqish, who is leaving for Baghdad today to assume his post, said Jordan's relations with any single country would not affect its relations with any other country.

"Jordan's relations with Iraq, the Gulf countries or other Arab countries are not influenced by its relations with any Arab country," said Mr. Qaqish, a former minister of water and irrigation and inspector general of the Armed Forces.

"Jordan deals with Arab countries on the same footing and in accordance with international principles. In addition, these relations are governed by brotherly and historical ties," Mr. Qaqish said.

He emphasised that Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein, has always been the first to underline the need to preserve good relations among Arab countries.

Mr. Qaqish emphasised that the Kingdom's call to end the sanctions imposed on Iraq since its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 was not based on purely economic reasons, but rather on humanitarian and cultural reasons.

"The sanctions are not only preventing the entry of material to the country, but have led to other negative consequences, even in cultural fields," he said, expressing optimism that the sanctions would be lifted soon.

"By nature I am optimistic, and no doubt the siege will be eventually lifted. It is just a matter of time because really, the suffering of the Iraqi people is great; besides the sanctions are affecting Jordan as well," he said.

The ambassador voiced hope that the sanctions will be lifted, saying there were significant indications that the way Iraq is viewed at the regional and international levels is different from the way it was one or two years ago, especially after Iraq recognised its borders with Kuwait.

He said it was up to the U.N. to decide whether Iraq is in compliance with the relevant Security Council resolutions issued during and after the Gulf crisis.

Mr. Qaqish welcomed initiatives, taken by France and some Arab countries to partially lift the sanctions. "These initiatives, whether taken by France or the United Arab Emirates, call for optimism that the sanctions will end soon," he said. "Ultimately neither we nor the international community nor any human being condones keeping a whole people under siege."

France last week decided to open an interests section at the Romanian embassy in Baghdad amid protests by the United States and Britain. Meanwhile, UAE officials were urging Kuwait to ease the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said in New York earlier this month that he expected the sanctions to be partially lifted within a period of two months.

Jordan, Mr. Qaqish said, implements the resolutions as any other country, although it is one of the countries most affected by them.

The lifting of the sanctions regime will certainly have positive effects on the Jordanian and Iraqi economies, particularly since the Gulf of Aqaba has been the only port permitted to take in materials allowed by the sanctions for transport to Iraq, Mr. Qaqish said.

"Jordan has always called for discussing the issue logically to come up with comprehensive solutions, not partial ones, to emphasise good neighbourly relations and good inter-Arab, Arab-Islamic and Arab-international relations," Mr. Qaqish asserted.

"Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty, is known for being the first on

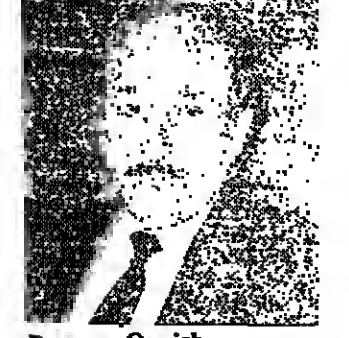
more than one occasion to call for the use of reason not force, and dialogue not violence," the ambassador said.

He expressed confidence that all of the region's countries, including Iraq, will be included in any new regional order resulting from the Middle East peace process, saying King Hussein and his Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan have always reiterated that all the region's countries will be partners in actively contributing to planning and organising such an order.

Saying he feels "honoured" to be chosen for the post, Mr. Qaqish said he was eager to assume his duties in Baghdad.

Mr. Qaqish, a former army officer and minister of water and irrigation, said he expected full cooperation from the Iraqi government.

Mr. Qaqish will succeed Nasouh Al Majali, who will be serving as the Kingdom's ambassador to Canada.



Bassam Qaqish

## Proposed national company to search for oil, gas

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources has finalised plans to establish a national oil and natural gas exploration company as well as a mining company in the Azraq region to search for other minerals, according to Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazeh.

In a statement to the press Sunday, Mr. Darwazeh said the two companies are expected to be set up in three to four months.

Although optimistic about finding commercially feasible amounts of natural gas in various parts of the country, the minister said that searches conducted so far have come up with only 15 per cent of the Kingdom's needs.

The national company will either conduct its own explorations or work in conjunction with oil firms, the minister said, adding that the company will be wholly owned by the state in the initial stages, but later the private sector could be invited to purchase shares.

Referring to electric power, he said that the Kingdom was expected to witness significant growth in industry and a major increase in electricity consumption rates.

## Britain to help Jordan combat drug trafficking

AMMAN (Petra) — The head of the international assistance branch at the British Customs and Excise Department, now on a visit to Jordan, Sunday expressed his country's readiness to provide technical assistance to the Public Security Department (PSD) to help it combat drug trafficking.

Tom Matthews, who started a visit to the Kingdom Saturday, was speaking to PSD Director General Abdul Rahman Udwan with whom he discussed prospects for mutual cooperation in curbing drug trafficking operations in the region.

Mr. Matthews was quoted as saying that his talks in Jordan would give the way for British assistance to the PSD.

He said the British customs department hopes to lay the foundation for close cooperation with the PSD in stemming smuggling, particularly drug trafficking.

For his part Lt. Gen. Udwan said that the Kingdom does not have a problem with drug addiction, and the number of addicts are few.

## State universities assign 10% enrolment to non-Jordanians

AMMAN (Petra) — Ten per cent of the total number of seats at Jordanian state universities have been assigned for non-Jordanian students for the 1994-1995 academic year, according to the director of the Ministry of Higher Education's Non-Jordanian Students Department, Mohammad Kharabsheh.

Mr. Kharabsheh said 1,000 students from Arab and Islamic countries were enrolled this year, raising to 4,361 the total number of non-Jordanian students now attending state universities.

Of the total, 1,100 are from Malaysia and 1,453 are from Palestine, Mr. Kharabsheh said.

Non-Jordanian Arab and Muslim students are enrolled at all major universities in the Kingdom.

According to Mr. Kharabsheh, the atmosphere of stability and security in Jordan and the certificate/diploma equivalency agreements attract students from various parts of the Arab and Muslim world.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

#### CONCERT

★ Concert by Spanish jazz pianist Tele Moutolin at Philadelphia Hotel at 8:00 p.m.

#### FILMS

★ Film (in French) entitled "Le Dernier Metro" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

★ Film entitled "The Life of Leonardo Da Vinci (Part III) (with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khalid Khureis) at Darat Al Funun at 5:30 p.m.

#### LECTURES

★ Slide lecture (in German and Arabic) entitled "The German and Turkish Relations of Jaha" by Dr. Dieter Glade at the Association of Jordanian Writers at 5:30 p.m.

★ Lecture entitled "The Dead Sea Scrolls" by Dr. Mahmoud Abu Taleh at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 7:00 p.m.

#### THIRD JORDANIAN DRAMA FESTIVAL

★ Plays (in Arabic) entitled "Jazirat Al

Mis'in" (The Goat Island) and another one entitled "Khyar Kharabek" respectively at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

#### EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of Children's works (from Haya Centre drawing and painting classes) at Goethe Institute.

★ Exhibition of works by Iraqi artist Fakhr Muhammad at the Ab'ad Art Gallery.









Lenin remembered: A woman holding flowers the 71st anniversary of the death of Lenin walks in front of a Lenin portrait in Red Square during a demonstration held by members of the Russian Communist Party marking (photo)

## EU wheels out economic weapons to combat war

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Union (EU) will consider on Monday whether to deploy its economic arsenal of economic powers to try to influence the course of conflict in Chechnya and former Yugoslavia.

In a familiar situation reflecting the EU's lack of ability to halt foreign bloodshed, union foreign ministers may look at whether to exert pressure on Moscow over its handling of the Chechen war by delaying the signature of a trade accord.

Diplomats said ministers were likely to use the opposite approach on Croatia by dangling the prospect of negotiations for an economic cooperation agreement with Zagreb if it "plays the game" in the fragile peace process in former Yugoslavia.

Ministers will also discuss the situation in Algeria and plans for a Euro-Mediterranean conference later this year which will focus on the need for regional economic development to ward off the spread of Algerian-style Islamic fundamentalism.

The first regular monthly foreign ministers' meeting of the new enlarged EU will start with a public debate on the work programme of the union's six-month French presidency before paying tribute to outgoing commission President Jacques Delors.

## Liberia warlord reports deal

MONROVIA (R) — One of Liberia's warlords on Sunday announced an agreement on a dispute which had thrown the shattered country's peace process off track, upstaging the local soccer hero George Weah and the national team.

Faction leader Octavien Walker of the Liberia Peace Council made the surprise announcement as Liberians took a break from politics to focus on Sunday afternoon's key African Nations Cup home qualifier against Senegal.

"We have fixed it. We fixed it last night and General (Hezekiah) Bowen will be the representative on the council from the AFL coalition," he told reporters at the airport as faction leaders left for talks in Ghana.

A dispute between Gen. Bowen's Armed Forces of Liberia, once the national army, and a coalition of smaller militias over who should occupy the last of five seats on a transitional ruling council has thrown the timetable off course.

"The only thing we have to do in Ghana now is to elect the chairman," said Mr. Walker, whose group is in the coalition.

Led by Mr. Weah, voted African player of the year in a prestigious French poll and courted by top Italian side AC Milan, Liberia was looking for a victory in Sunday's match to take them into the Nations Cup finals in South Africa in 1996.

This occasion can be used as a way for the politicians and warlords to forget their differences and unite to rebuild a successful Liberia," Mr. Weah's cousin Wilson Weah told Reuters.

Local Red Cross worker John Jallah said Liberia's political problems eclipsed thoughts of the match last week. "Enthusiasm for the game was very low. I think that has changed now," he added, before the announcement.

Liberia, set up by freed American slaves in 1847, has been racked by civil war since former civil servant Charles Taylor invaded from Ivory

## Bosnia truce holds; big powers pursue peace mission

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnia's three-week-old ceasefire appeared firm Sunday as a U.S. envoy shuttled between Sarajevo and the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Pale to revive talks on ending a 33-month war.

A United Nations spokesman in Sarajevo said Bosnia was quiet during the past 24 hours apart from a handful of truce violations which the U.N. did not categorise as serious.

U.S. mediator Charles Thomas, a member of five-nation "contact group" set up last year to etch out a political settlement in Bosnia, discussed the group's latest initiatives over breakfast with the outgoing U.N. commander in Bosnia, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose.

Mr. Thomas said after meeting leaders of Bosnia's Muslim-led government Saturday evening that the group — comprising the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Germany — in-

tended to pursue its peace plan for Bosnia drawn up last July.

The four other contact group envoys were expected to join Mr. Thomas in Sarajevo Monday.

"We had a chance to discuss the contact group peace plan, which we stick to. We had a very helpful exchange of views," Mr. Thomas said.

Mr. Thomas went into talks on Sunday with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and other Serb officials.

The contact group aimed to take advantage of the latest Bosnia truce which came into effect over the new year after a peace mission by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

The Bosnia peace process has been made no easier by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman's decision to end the U.N.'s peacekeeping mandate in his country.

Mr. Tudjman told the German news weekly Der Spiegel his government

wanted the U.N. force and his army stood ready to recover by force the third of Croatia's territory seized by Serbs in Zagreb's 1991 war of secession from former Yugoslavia.

U.N. chiefs and Western governments fear renewed war in Croatia which could turn end any hope of peace in Bosnia.

Mr. Rose, who passes the U.N. command baton to British Major-General Rupert Smith Tuesday, has said the Bosnia ceasefire process was in danger of losing momentum as the Bosnian government and Serb forces dragged their feet over making good pledges they agreed in the new year truce pact.

Bosnian government and Serb negotiators resume talks Sunday on reopening civilian routes in and out of Sarajevo, one of the key planks of the ceasefire accord.

"They broke up a meeting on Friday without deciding anything so they could con-

fronted with their respective leadership. But they told us they were not optimistic about getting an agreement," a U.N. source said.

But while Bosnian Serbs stonewall on that part of the agreement, arguing over what type of vehicles should be let into Sarajevo, the ceasefire process received a much-needed boost Friday in a major prisoner swap.

The Bosnian government exchanged 49 Serb prisoners for 49 Muslims held by their rivals since the summer in an operation that went off without a hitch.

Despite occasional heavy fighting in the northwest Muslim enclave of Bihać over the past three weeks, Bosnia's ceasefire appeared to be the most successful so far, although diplomats say the calm may also be attributed to the snowy winter weather.

U.N. military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward said U.N. radar detected nine ceasefire violations in the Doboj region in

northeast Bosnia on Saturday.

Mr. Coward also reported several firing incidents near the southern city of Mostar and Vitez in central Bosnia and said there had also been scattered shunting in Sarajevo but none was classed as serious.

Bosnian government forces clashed sporadically with Bosnian Serbs, Croatian Serbs and allied rebel Muslim forces in the Bihać pocket but the intensity of the fighting had slackened off since last Thursday.

The U.N. said there were eight artillery explosions and 18 small arms incidents west of Bihać town, a U.N. "safe area," in the early hours of Sunday morning. U.N. monitors registered 50 artillery blasts near Velika Kladusa, north of Bihać.

"It seems we've reached a plateau in terms of fighting in the Kladusa region... we notice no changes in confrontation lines," Mr. Coward said.

CAPE TOWN (R) — South Africa's parliament starts its 1995 programme Monday with President Nelson Mandela and white Deputy President F.W. de Klerk promising "a fresh start" after a bitter slanging match.

Mr. Mandela and Mr. de Klerk made peace at private talks Friday. Political analysts said, however, their worst row since South Africa's democracy elections last April had highlighted the fragility of their post-apartheid coalition.

Mr. de Klerk was South Africa's last white president and still leads the National Party (NP), the main coalition partner of Mr. Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) which won the elections.

Conservative Afrikaans newspaper editor Ebe Dommisse said the row over an alleged secret attempt by Mr. de Klerk's NP to grant immunity for 3,500 police and two former cabinet ministers for apartheid crimes had battered the NP's image.

"Nothing has done the process of reconciliation in South Africa so much harm as the past week's row over immunity," he said in a regular political column.

Political representatives of the rival guerrilla groups are in exploratory talks with the British government.

But in a parallel move, Britain and Ireland have been working on a so-called "framework document" that they will propose to all Protestant and Catholic politicians aimed at netting a final settlement of the province's political problems.

Estimates said between 25,000 and 50,000 worshippers — and more than 200 print and broadcast journalists — were likely to turn out for the mass by the controversial prelate, whose dismissal has sparked nationwide condemnation of the Holy See.

Bishop Gaillet has condemned the Vatican decision, and has pledged to continue his campaigns for various social issues.

A committee set up by his supporters said some 300 coaches had been hired for the occasion, while trainloads of supporters of the bishop, sacked Jan. 13, were also expected.

His last mass, delivered in the city's cathedral, was due to be broadcast live over loudspeakers across the city.

Bishop Gaillet, 59, upset the Catholic hierarchy by, among other things, giving interviews to French girly magazine Lui and a magazine for homosexuals, Gay-Pied.

The Vatican said he consistently failed to heed warnings about his behaviour and opinions, which include unorthodox views on artificial contraception and abortion, both considered sinful under mainstream Catholic teaching.

Meanwhile a support group said it was going ahead with a plan for a march on Paris to protest the Vatican decision. The march is due to leave Evreux Monday and pass through 13 towns before reaching Paris Feb. 4.

## S. African parliament to meet after political row

CAPE TOWN professor of political studies Robert Schrire said the row had been costly to both the men who shared a Nobel Peace Prize for the smooth transition from white rule under Mr. de Klerk to a black-led democratic government under Mr. Mandela.

Mr. Schrire said the president's reputation had been damaged by the row. He cited reports, which have not been denied by the government, that Mr. Mandela rejected Mr. de Klerk's comments to the cabinet Wednesday and subjected him to an eight-minute tongue-lashing.

"De Klerk looked weak... Mandela looked arrogant and intemperate. His saintly halo has slipped somewhat across his brow."

But the lesson has been salutary, especially for investors and the stock market in recognising how rocky the road to reconciliation really is and how fragile the process of reconstruction, Mr. Schrire said.

Prices on the Johannesburg stock exchange plunged on Thursday after Mr. de Klerk said he had been insulted by Mr. Mandela and hinted that he might pull out of the post-apartheid government of national unity.

Stability returned after the two men addressed a joint news conference Friday and said they had made peace.

Liberal Sunday Times editor Ken Owen said in a commentary that Mr. de Klerk, battling to accept that power had passed from his own hands into Mr. Mandela's, had tried to play his last card with the threat to pull out of the coalition.

"The coalition was restored, not because the breach between the two men was healed, but because the alternative, far both sides, was too ghastly to contemplate."

"...If Mr. de Klerk again flashes his last card, I suspect Mr. Mandela will accept it," Mr. Owen said.

Speaker of parliament Irene Ginwala said the 1995 session would start with a debate on the immunity controversy.

But the 400-member national assembly will not have any authority to resolve the dispute, which has been referred to the justice, police and defence ministries for a recommendation.

Parliament's legislative programme has been delayed until February to allow members a month in which to focus on their parallel role as constitution-makers.

ROME (AP) — Italy's former premier offered a political truce Saturday by backing off demands for a firm election date by his successor, who now appears likely to win a confidence vote in parliament. Ex-premier Silvio Berlusconi denied he has "an obsession with elections" and indicated that he would support elections in "a reasonable time."

The statement is more flexible than Mr. Berlusconi's earlier demands and could seal Premier Lamberto Dini's victory in a parliamentary vote expected this week on Italy's 54th government since World War II. Mr. Berlusconi had earlier said he would withhold support in parliament for Mr. Dini without a promise for elections in June.

Armenian government holds emergency session

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP) — The government met in emergency session after a natural gas pipeline that is Armenia's only source of energy was reported blown up in Georgia on Saturday. The blast in southern Georgia destroyed a 200-metre section of the pipeline bringing gas from Turkmenistan, the government press service said in Yerevan. No further details were available. Georgia agreed to divert within days some of its own gas supplies from Turkmenistan to a reserve pipeline leading into Armenia, the Press Service said. The main pipeline has been bombed repeatedly in attacks presumed to be related to Armenia's six-year-old war with Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave. Fuel shortages have forced Yerevan residents to cut down virtually all the trees in the city of 1.2 million to heat their homes. Armenia is one of the poorest ex-Soviet republics, partly because of economic blockades imposed by Azerbaijan.

22 dead in Mexico truck accident

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Twenty-two people were killed and 10 others seriously injured when a truck carrying people returning from a religious pilgrimage plunged off a cliff and fell 200 metres, a local official said Saturday. The accident took place late Friday in the southern state of Oaxaca on the Oaxaca-Puerto Escondido highway, the official told AFP. "People were packed in like sardines" in the cargo truck, which was carrying 32 people returning from a religious festival in Oaxaca, the official said. The victims were from the central state of Puebla and had travelled to Oaxaca to visit a shrine to the Virgin Mary.

Earthquake rocks Kuriles

MOSCOW (R) — An earthquake measuring five to six on the Richter scale shook buildings on the remote Kurile Islands in Russia's far east late on Saturday, a spokesman for the emergency ministry said Sunday. The earthquake, which rocked the islands just before midnight, had its epicentre in the Pacific Ocean, 80 kilometres south-east of the Russian town of Yuzhno-Kurilsk. There were no reports of casualties or damage, the spokesman said. The Kuriles, disputed between Russia and Japan, were devastated by a powerful earthquake last year. They are more than 1,200 kilometres from the Japanese city of Kobe, scene of a disastrous earthquake last week.

Y. JANUARY 23, 1995

Italian police pay 13 million fake dollars

GLAN, Italy (R) — Italian police said on Sunday they seized fake U.S. dollars worth \$13 million in a raid on a five-person gang. A spokesman said four of the arrested had been caught in a high-tech plot on the outskirts of Milan. Investigators believe the fake dollars were destined for Eastern Europe.

Police arrest Italian Mafia fugitive

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A Mafia fugitive convicted of killing two Italian police officers 19 years ago last week, Giuseppe Santoro, 55, was captured by police Friday in Sao Paulo, about 48 kilometres from Sao Paulo. Mr. Santoro fled Italy after being sentenced to 18 years in prison for the 1976 slayings of two members of Italy's paramilitary police force near Trapani. Prosecutors claimed the killings were ordered by the Mafia to silence a police officer. The anti-Mafia unit of the paramilitary force, Carabinieri, led the operation. Santoro, who was born in Italy, Brazilian police accused Santoro of leading a vast money laundering operation in Sao Paulo. A date for extradition was not immediately set.

Snow scooter owners protest against environmentalists

JUKKASJARVI, Sweden (AP) — Snow scooter owners staged a demonstration Saturday in this far north Swedish town to protest against efforts by environmentalists to have restrictions imposed on the vehicles. Scooter owners claim the restrictions would hurt the local economy. They also say the restrictions would hurt the environment. The scooter owners say the restrictions would hurt the environment. They also say the restrictions would hurt the environment.

Student Jewish suspended for wearing star of David

MENDON, Michigan (R) — A high school senior was suspended for wearing a Star of David necklace. The school principal said the necklace was a symbol of anti-Semitism. The student said the necklace was a symbol of his Jewish faith. The school principal said the necklace was a symbol of anti-Semitism. The student said the necklace was a symbol of his Jewish faith.

China attempts control lotteries

BEIJING (R) — China's government is attempting to control the lottery market. The government said it was concerned about the growing number of illegal lotteries. The government said it was concerned about the growing number of illegal lotteries. The government said it was concerned about the growing number of illegal lotteries.



## Jordan Times

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### Where reform begins

THE ADO that accompanied the recent resolution by the government to raise the pension of newly retired civil and military personnel starting on Dec. 1, 1994, should have at least been anticipated by those who took the decision. While the first reason for such a measure must have been meant to help the government trim down the numbers in the services, the second was no doubt the fact that, left as they were, the pensions would have been insufficient to help retired people cope with an ever-rising cost of living. Yet that cost has been rising for so many years and the hardship is most felt by those who retired earlier on much lower pensions.

Now, if the government would yield to the pressure of the around 450,000 retired Jordanians and raise pensions by only a fraction of the recent increases, that would put the treasury under tremendous strain to secure funds for that purpose. That is traditionally done by increasing taxes resulting in an automatic rise in cost of living and protests from different groups. A vicious circle, we would say.

This whole issue is, however, transient, one that will get solved one way or another, most likely in the manner that we always solved our problems: Either by meeting only a tiny part of the demands of old pensioners or by leaving the issue to die a natural death. Yet this is a good issue which should be used to review not only the employment and retirement policies but all economic policies of the country. We should be asking questions like: Should the government continue to provide almost all public services? Should the government be the largest employer of Jordanians? Should the treasury subsidise employment? Should people retire at the early age of 50 or 60 after completing only 20 years of service? Should we have two retirement schemes, one for civil servants and one for the private sector?

The point here is certainly not to rectify a situation that resulted from a single decision. Rather, it is to reverse or reform a completely worn-out policy. This and many similar issues are at the heart of our main problem: An outdated, problem-plagued bureaucratic system. What this episode should teach us is that piecemeal solutions will not do. Only a concerted attempt at true reform will do the job.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RAY daily Sunday expressed hope that the Aqaba summit between His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak would constitute a starting point for joint efforts towards achieving reconciliation among Arab states. Saying that the summit was held at a time when the Arab countries are still divided, the paper said that the meeting has proved that Arab leaders can transcend deep differences and mobilise all their efforts towards healing rifts and mending fences with sincerity and determination to serve national goals. Egypt assumes a central role and has offered so many sacrifices in the past in order to serve the Arab Nation. Therefore, Cairo is in a good position to play a renewed role in bringing the Arabs together, added the daily. Noting that the Arab states together face enormous challenges, the paper said it is hoped that the Aqaba summit would trigger fresh efforts on the part of every Arab head of state to work out common plans to solve problems facing the Arab World.

IN THE light of Israel's policy of delaying the implementation of the Oslo and Cairo agreements, the Palestinians should cling hard to their stand and insist on their demands, said Taher Al Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour. The Israeli government had delayed the Palestinian elections for six months and might extend the delay for another six months, said the writer. It has also allowed the Jewish settlers to go ahead with settlement programmes unchecked, he said. All this provides an obvious indication that the Israelis are not committed to the implementation of their agreement with the Palestinians, said the writer. The Palestinians should insist on the execution of agreed plans on the redeployment of the Israeli forces and must not give in to Israeli pressures for any delay in this respect because any weakness would encourage the Israelis to ask for more concessions, said the writer. The Palestinians should study the lessons of the past Israeli-Egyptian experiment when the Israelis tried by all means to delay the implementation of deals with Cairo, he added.

By Khalil Barhoum

THE WORLD has witnessed the tip of the iceberg of problems that we shall have to overcome in the implementation of even the first phase of the Declaration of Principles.

The above was said by Israeli Prime Minister Rabin at the signing of the third Cairo accord between Israel and the PLO on May 4. They were prophetic words indeed. More than one year after the signing of the Declaration of Principles, the two sides are still groping with the interpretation of their assigned new roles which, to the surprise of very few people, reflect the inescapable balance of power between the two sides on the ground. The PLO, now widely referred to in the occupied territories as the Palestine National Authority, has bravely attempted to portray its relationship with the Israeli government as equitable. But the fact of the matter is that the authority does not so much as own the keys to its own house.

Due to an agreement which fails to guarantee them even a minimum of their aspirations, the Palestinians now find themselves trapped in political limbo, their once revolutionary leadership having traded in its liberationist credentials for a wiffling submission to life under Israeli siege. In the meantime, while Arab governments continue to negotiate wholesale peace with Israel, the Palestinians have been conversely subjected to an exercise in political Darwinism. This has the unmistakable aim of taming the Palestinian spirit, while pushing the Palestinian people and their previous central political role to the margins of Israel's overall strategic calculations. Crucially for Israel, Yasser Arafat has been the principal facilitator of a sweeping Arab capitulation to Israel's political diktat. Now that the Arab opening to Israel in the political and economic spheres is underway, Arafat is finding his wider Arab-Israeli rapprochement ever more irrelevant, and superfluous.

An agreement replete with ironies

Not only have the Oslo Accords left the Palestinians weaker and more exposed than ever, they have ushered in a process replete with ironies. First, the accords primarily address the fate of Palestinians in the occupied territories; they deal with diaspora Palestinians — who represent roughly two thirds of the whole population — altogether perfunctorily, in fact almost as an afterthought. This represents a departure for a movement that has staked its entire philosophy, even existence, on the twin Palestinian rights of return and self-determination. As if the current fragmentation of the Palestinians along ideological and political lines were not enough, the accords provide for further segmenting the Palestinians geographically, into those who live in the West Bank and Gaza and those who do not. Underlining this new distinction is the feeble argument that, given the reality of the situation on the ground, Palestinians under occupation have the most to lose, and hence, their concerns must assume political primacy at this juncture.

This argument would be perhaps defensible were it not for the absence in the accords of any specific and unambiguous context for dealing with the 46-year old refugee problem. Other than a vague and non-committal reference to the intention of tackling the fate of 1948 Palestinian refugees during final status negotiations, the accords concern themselves merely with the "administrative" fate of those Palestinians not living under Israeli occupation. The irony in this situation is that the PLO fiercely objected to the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace talks being made up entirely of Palestinians from the territories, mainly on the grounds that only the PLO could adequately and effectively represent the interests of all Palestinians. Soon after the

accords were made public, however, it became obvious that the Palestinian team leading the negotiations in Washington was more in tune with the concerns of all Palestinians than the PLO team in Oslo, which, in fact, operated in utter secrecy to avoid public scrutiny.

Second, for decades the Palestinians have been trying to gain support for their grievances against Israel from the U.S. government and public opinion. Recognising that the U.S. is Israel's principal military and economic backer, the Palestinians still tried — without much success — to establish official contacts with it. Along these lines, they proceeded to build coalitions, mainly with progres-

ness with the PLO, the U.S. administration was more than happy to follow suit.

Third, the U.S., which all along had Israel's best interests at heart during the Washington peace talks, despite the comical label of "honest broker," turned out to be too pro-Israel even for the Israelis. U.S. pledges to the Palestinians that it would be a "full partner" in the talks came frighteningly close to reality, as the administration never failed to support the Israeli position at every impasse encountered by the two negotiating parties. Even under these extremely unfavourable conditions, the Palestinian negotiating team, headed by Haidar Abdul Shafi, stubbornly persevered.

**"The reality is that the PLO under Arafat has once again tragically miscalculated both the Palestinian mood and Israeli intentions. To ensure his own political survival, Arafat has settled for short-term political gain (i.e. Israeli recognition of the PLO) and vague promises of future concessions, which will be contingent upon Israel's determination of his good conduct."**

sive political groups and religious organisations, with an eye on creating more U.S. awareness and sympathy for their cause — and in the hope of prodding the American administration to play a more constructive political role in addressing their plight. But the attempt had very little impact on U.S. foreign policy considerations. Now that the Palestinian leadership has clearly succumbed to an Israeli-dictated vision of peace, the Palestinians are dismayed to discover that the price for opening a channel to Washington is their total and unconditional alignment with Israel's political designs. Once the Israeli government decreed that it was acceptable and prudent to do busi-

ness, it was the Israelis who finally decided that the U.S. was too partisan to serve Israel's interests well, and so moved ahead of it at Oslo.

The last irony is that since the Madrid conference at the end of 1991, the PLO had sounded repeated warnings over impending separate Arab-Israeli peace deals. But the PLO's fears were unwarranted; the first party to break Arab ranks was the PLO itself, leaving both Jordan and Syria feeling embittered and betrayed. Now that Jordan has signed its own deal with Israel, and Syria cannot be left behind for long, the PLO's laments and protests over the Arab governments' moving too fast in

their peace overtures to Israel rings more hollow than ever.

This underlines the PLO leadership's arrogance towards its Arab negotiating partners, as well as its lack of accountability to its own people. The PLO has always believed and acted as though it had the right to exercise a veto over Arab states' peace moves towards Israel, while at the same time permitting itself the luxury of breaking its own repeated pledges to these states not to be the first party — since Sadat — to split Arab ranks in that regard. Further compounding this dynamic is the unfortunate reality that the PLO has always lacked a true system of accountability towards its own people, a system designed to make its leaders pay for their miscalculations. As a result, decisions have been often taken in a thoroughly haphazard manner, excused later by shameless and lame justifications.

**Arrogance without accountability**

Such is the case with the latest — and potentially greatest Palestinian blunder, the Oslo Accords. Now that the PLO realises their many limitations and inconsistencies, the Palestinian people are being asked to close ranks behind their leadership. Palestinian rights are being sacrificed and compromised daily, within the context of an agreement which has had the effect of legitimising the Israeli occupation and supplanting a whole set of U.N. resolutions predicted on international legitimacy and consensus, all in the name of not wanting to prejudice the outcome of ongoing negotiations. Emboldened by the new compromising position in which the PLO has found itself after moving to Gaza, the Israeli and U.S. governments have been actively seeking a repeal of U.N. resolutions critical of Israel and supportive of Palestinian rights. This process of "historical re-engineering" would send far-fetched were it entirely without precedent. But after the Gulf war, the Bush

administration — in a bid to prove its pro-Israel credentials before the 1992 U.S. presidential elections — successfully championed the repeal of the 1975 U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism. Now that the Israeli government is linking every political move in its negotiations with the Palestinians to how malleable the PLO proves to be in acceding to Israeli demands, the question arises of how resistant the PLO can be to such unremitting pressure, especially given that its political survival seems to rely on such compliance.

The reality is that the PLO under Arafat has once again tragically miscalculated both the Palestinian mood and Israeli intentions. To ensure his own political survival, Arafat has settled for short-term political gain (i.e. Israeli recognition of the PLO) and vague promises of future concessions, which will be contingent upon Israel's determination of his good conduct. The sad truth is that Arafat, as a free man, was not able to achieve for the Palestinians even a fraction of what Nelson Mandela in his prison cell was able to accomplish for his own people. For the new Palestine being fashioned in Gaza is hardly the glorious vision which, over the past three decades, Arafat has promised his people. With sovereignty still firmly in Israeli hands, the economy collapsing and the new authority turning its guns against its own people, the present situation is indeed a nightmarish vision only the Israeli settlers could have wished on the Palestinians. And, thanks mainly to Arafat's separate peace, the Arab states now feel free to go it alone and the Palestinians' worst fear of marginalisation and fragmentation is becoming more of a reality with every passing day.

Khalil Barhoum is senior lecturer at the Department of Linguistics, Stanford University, California. The article is reprinted from the London-based Middle East International.



## War chews up Chechenya

By Candice Hughes  
The Associated Press

ACHKHOI-MARTAN, Russia — Every few days the war takes another bite out of this district southwest of Grozny.

The bites — a few dead or wounded every few days — are small compared to the day-by-day pounding of the capital by Russian bombs, rockets and artillery. But they are getting bigger and bloodier.

The Achkhoi-Martani district, where thousands of Russian troops are encamped, is a preview of what lies ahead: an uneasy coexistence between occupiers and occupied, a stubborn guerrilla war.

The Chechens have vowed to fight to the last man. Their centuries-long history of resistance to both Czar and commissars and their bravery in battle so far suggests they can be taken at their word.

The first battle is for Grozny. The next will be for towns and villages throughout Chechenya. The final front will be the rugged mountains that served the Chechens' rebellious forebears so long and so well.

"The Russians will occupy the villages and then we'll start the most important stage of the war. We'll move to the mountains where nobody will kick us out," said a local farmer-turned-fighter, Said Amerbekov. "We'll nev-

er give up."

This district lies between Grozny and the mountains, along the main road in from the west. It is already a shifting patchwork of Chechen and Russian-held territory. In some places, the two sides have checkpoints about a kilometre apart.

At a snowy roadside a few kilometres from Achkhoi-Martani guarded by machine guns and armoured vehicles, a Russian soldier patrolled his post. "We call this the 'alarm clock,'" he said. "We have orders to fire five grenades every morning at 6 a.m. to scare the Chechens."

Just down the road, the lightly armed men manning the Chechen checkpoint seemed unimpressed. The ground was littered with spent cartridges. The lightly armed Chechens had just tried to shoot down a Russian "crocodile," a Mi-24 helicopter gunship, with their assault rifles.

"Russian mothers will weep every day until this war stops," vowed Rukhman Sugabov. "The Chechens have no tears left."

The people in this district have used both guns and diplomacy since a Russian armoured column arrived in mid-December and encamped. Talks between local officials and Russian field commanders have achieved the first prisoner exchange of

the war and a handful of tacit agreements about turf. But there are also sporadic clashes.

"If it's possible to negotiate, we negotiate. If they want war, we'll bring out our guns," Hamzat Matayev, the Achkhoi-Martani security chief said.

Plenty of guns are already out. Local men armed with Kalashnikovs are on constant guard in the Achkhoi-Martani town square only 50 kilometres from Grozny.

People here are bracing for an all-out Russian attack. If the Russians want to encircle Grozny and cut it off from the mountains, they'll have to go through this district, home to 63,000 people scattered throughout several farming towns and villages.

The district's self-defence chief, Magomet Zelimhanov, said more than 80 local people already have died in clashes with the Russians.

Both sides have pursued a policy of harassment rather than all-out confrontation. Chechen guerrillas have ambushed Russian armoured vehicles several times and killed several Russian soldiers for their weapons. The Russians have retaliated, mostly with artillery and helicopter gunships.

But the peace is picking up and the Russians have begun to creep closer to Grozny, moving into towns previously left untouched.

On Thursday and Friday, edgy Russian commandos in black ski masks carried out house-to-house raids in Assinovskaya, about 5 kilometres from Achkhoi-Martani town on the border with Ingushetia. Officials said nine people were arrested.

It was the Russians' second attempt to raid the town. The first, on Monday, provoked one of the district's worst clashes to date, an all-day battle between scores of Chechens from nearby towns like Bamut and Achkhoi-Martani and a small Russian armoured convoy.

The Chechens said they had 11 dead and 46 wounded. Russian casualties were unknown, but five bodies and 10 wounded soldiers from the battle were seen at a nearby field hospital.

That night, Russian helicopter gunships rained revenge down on Bamut. The attacks would continue for days.

Only a handful of mourners dared to gather under the cold gray sky the next day to bury Bamut's five new dead. Artillery thundered in the distance as village elders in tall gray Astrakhan hats and long black coats presided over the funerals.

"Tell the world we are peaceful people," one old man said, leaning on a staff, his blue eyes blazing. "Tell the world the Russians are killing a new generation."

### LETTERS

#### Governance through violence

To the Editor:

THE ONGOING bloody chapter in Chechenya is but another by-product of the Western policy towards the former Soviet Union. And Russian President Boris Yeltsin's own political agenda has led him to this quagmire. For decades, especially after the Allies' victory over Nazi Germany, the West embarked on a strategy to bring about the demise of the Soviet Union, which, in its turn, had its own plans for combating capitalism.

The most significant step towards the collapse of Communism was the fall of the Berlin Wall. This was followed by Warsaw pact countries detaching themselves from the big bear, and the disintegration of the Soviet Union with the republics that formed it opting for independence.

The West's highly publicised publicised campaign against the "Evil Empire" had one central theme: violations of human rights and absence of democracy. Strategists and think-tanks in the West then identified three major targets: To reduce to a minimum the communist influence all over the world, especially in vulnerable Third World countries, to disarm the Soviet Union of its nuclear capabilities and to help Jews leave that country.

So far, two of the above objectives have been achieved in such a style that it has made those strategists and think-tanks forget or neglect the very first argument they used against the Soviets, namely the absence of genuine democracy and the violations of basic human rights. If the said strategists and think-tanks forgot this original moral argument, that cry was not lost to the tens of indigenous peoples whose ancestral home-lands had composed the former Soviet Union. Those peoples have waited long for the moment of emancipation from Moscow's grip, whether it was under the Czar, Stalin, Brezhnev, Gorbachev, Yeltsin or whoever succeeds him.

One cannot think of a more telling example of acquiescence by the West to Mr. Yeltsin's abuse of power than the shelling of the Duma, the Russian house of democracy. Maybe some people thought at the time, that it was not so bad an idea to let Mr. Yeltsin reestablish his authority behind the trembling walls of the Kremlin by knocking out some walls of the Duma.

As the Chechenya tragedy is demonstrating, Mr. Yeltsin seems to have become addicted to violence as a method of convincing his subjects of his views.

If Mr. Yeltsin is left with a total free hand whenever he faces a problem of dissent, he and those who condone such actions will have to share the responsibility. It is a sure recipe for more headaches, especially that there is an awesome Pandora's box waiting to be opened.

In Arabic, there is a proverb which says that it is better to deal with a reasonable enemy, than to have to deal with a clumsy friend. This proverb was coined in Arab popular literature when a countryman took his bear for a walk. After some time, the man decided to have a nap under a tree. While enjoying his nap, a fly landed on his nose, but that did not bother him. Instead, it bothered his pet which wanted to relieve his master from the buzzing fly. So, the faithful pet took a little rock and smashed the fly.

The strategy of the West vis-a-vis its old rival, the former Soviet Union must be revised. So far what this strategy has achieved is replacing communism with anarchy, substituting sanity with incompetence and transforming Sovietism into Russianism.

Salim Ayoub,  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



## House seeks to ensure quorum

(Continued from page 12)

election process. Afterwards, their enthusiasm fades, thus affecting the committees' meetings.

The House is scheduled to meet Wednesday to hear the government's policy statement and to set a date to debate the statement and take a vote of confidence in the new government.

Meanwhile, the House's

Foreign Affairs Committee was Sunday briefed by Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti on the outcome of the Jordanian-Egyptian summit held Saturday in Agaba between His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Mr. Kabarti also outlined to the committee the outcome of his meetings with Palestinian and Tunisian officials during his visit to Tunisia, and his participation in the meetings of the Organisation of Islamic Conference's (OIC) Jerusalem Committee held in the Moroccan city of Ifran.

The committee was also briefed by former Minister of State Jawad Al Anani on a meeting hosted by Washington on the establishment of a Middle East development bank and efforts to hold an economic summit in Amman Oct. 30, 1995.

## Jordanian-PLO officials

(Continued from page 1)

"I think that by the end of this week when His Majesty King Hussein and Mr. Arafat meet, we will witness a totally new era characterised with warmth and close coordination," the official said.

Earlier on, Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh made a more cautious assessment.

"The citizen has to see a practical translation of this special relationship ... so it is premature to assess the talks," Mr. Rawabdeh told reporters after the talks.

Mr. Rawabdeh's reserved comments mainly reflected concern and caution that the talks could raise high expectations but without producing tangible results. Mr. Rawabdeh, a sharp-minded man known for his frankness, was referring to previous rounds of Jordanian-Palestinian talks, that he himself attended.

Jordan was disappointed in the past when Mr. Arafat failed repeatedly to sign or even approve bilateral agreements.

But this time Palestinian officials said that the stage is set for a general Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and Mr. Arafat was coming to

start a new era.

"It is no longer feasible or possible to ignore relations with Jordan. The Palestinians will just be cornered by Israel. Jordanians and Palestinians need each other," a Palestinian official said. Mr. Arafat realises now the importance of mending fences and starting cooperation with Jordan, the official told the Jordan Times.

"All Arab states and parties are aware now that separate paths will not lead far; neither Jordan nor the Palestinians can do without consolidating their Arab dimensions," said a Jordanian official.

Mr. Arafat's visit, the first since May, signals a positive shift in bilateral relations that have been strained since the PLO signed a separate agreement with Israel in September 1993.

Relations further deteriorated when Jordan signed a peace agreement last October that included an Israeli recognition of the Jordanian custodianship of the Muslim holy sites in East Jerusalem.

But it was made possible by decisions by the two sides separately to stop making an issue of the Jordanian role in Jerusalem at Arab and Islamic meetings.

The Palestinian Authority

was particularly comfortable with recent Jordanian statements mostly by Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabarti, that Jordan supports a solution based on the recognition of Palestinian sovereignty over East Jerusalem.

Mr. Kabarti's statements, reflected the government's policy and were crucial to the easing of the tensions since they addressed Palestinian fears and sensitivity towards the issue.

Meanwhile Jordan denied on Saturday it had agreed with Israel to build a \$100 million, 260 kilometre pipeline for refined oil products.

An Israeli energy ministry spokesman told Reuters on Thursday that Israel and Jordan had agreed in principle to build such a pipeline.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted an Energy Ministry spokesman as saying no energy projects were defined in recent talks with Israel.

"Discussing any future projects will only happen in due course," he added.

The Israeli official has said the pipeline would run between state owned Oil Refineries Ltd's Haifa plant and Jordan's Zarqa refinery.

Jordan and Israel are expected to reach an energy accord in a few months before a six-month deadline set in the peace treaty they signed on Oct. 26.

# Ex-Soviet Central Asia embraces Islam — but carefully

By Julia Rubin  
The Associated Press

FERGANA VALLEY, Uzbekistan — Ortkali Utanov, a schoolteacher and farmer, proudly ticks off the signs of Islamic revival in his village in the rural heart of former Soviet Central Asia.

Since Uzbekistan broke free from Moscow three years ago, the village has a new mosque, schools offer Arabic and newspapers sing the praises of Central Asia's Islamic heyday, back before Russian conquerers arrived.

And yet, mosque attendance is low in Sharbonchak, and Mr. Utanov himself rarely goes. Many students elect to study English rather than Arabic. Some villagers are tiring of the media blitz, eyeing it with the scepticism they used against a lifetime of Soviet propaganda.

"It's nice we have independence and can learn about our culture," Mr. Utanov said, sitting on floor cushions at the table in his mud-walled house. "We've always been Muslims, though."

The new nations of Central Asia are rediscovering Islam after decades of stifling Soviet rule. But they are cautious, even in a cradle of tradition like the Fergana Valley where Mr.

Utanov lives, tucked between snowy mountain ranges not far west of China.

Russian and Western observers fear this volatile corner of Uzbekistan, the most populous of the new Central Asian nations, could be the hotbed from which Islamic extremism might conquer the region, filling the vacuum left by communism.

It isn't happening yet.

One reason is that people in Uzbekistan are scared of any unrest that could turn their country into another Afghanistan or Tajikistan, southern neighbours that have been devastated by civil war.

Uzbekistan's president, Islam Karimov, plays on those fears to crush religious extremism and any other dissent, while at the same time using Islam to shore up his government's legitimacy.

It is a delicate balancing act for the former Communist Party boss, who now makes pilgrimages and sprinkles his speeches with references to Allah.

Meanwhile, living standards are declining, which could someday do more to fuel an Islamic opposition than any Mujahadeen fighting across the border.

Priests are climbing, and staples at affordable prices are rationed. Bus service

has almost stopped. The government has stopped delivering some things the Soviets did provide, at least sporadically, such as medicine and winter fuel.

"Karimov knows he's not going to solve his Islamic problem by making speeches against mullahs. He's got to provide food," said Barnett Rubin, director of Columbia University's Centre for the Study of Central Asia.

Mr. Karimov has banned Islamic political parties and frequently points towards Afghanistan and the former Soviet republic of Tajikistan to justify his iron rule.

The Soviets fought a long, losing war with Islamic militants in Afghanistan. Today, Tajikistan's pro-Moscow government claims some of those mujahadeens are arming Tajik rebel groups.

Uzbek troops are helping Tajik and Russian government forces guard the Afghan border.

The kind of Islam that Mr. Karimov is promoting is the conservative, village Islam seen where Mr. Utanov lives: Light on scripture, heavy on folk customs and the glory days of the silk road trade route, roughly the 7th to 17th centuries.

In a country that already was poor by Soviet stan-

dards and is now reeling from economic dislocation, pollution and other problems, the revival of Islam and Uzbek pride is one of the few gains the government can point to.

Thousands of mosques have been built in the past three years, the Holy Koran has been translated into Uzbek, and monuments to Central Asian conquerors and scholars are being erected.

"The main task is to raise a healthy and honest generation," said Usman Khan, imam at a sparkling new mosque and religious school near Samarkand.

While he spoke with a reporter, birds sang in the lush garden and men drank tea on wooden platforms under old maples. In the village outside, female students walked home from classes fully veiled, a rare sight in Uzbekistan five years ago.

Pakistan contributed to building the mosque, an example of the new money and interest Islamic countries have in Uzbekistan. Mr. Karimov is looking to them and to the West, China and Russia for help with gradual free-market reforms.

People in Uzbekistan are afraid to talk with strangers about Mr. Karimov. But the balance he has struck with Islam, at least,

appears to have support, especially in Tashkent, a diverse capital that was the fourth largest city in the Soviet Union.

The harassed opposition in exile finds rare common ground with Mr. Karimov on the question of Islamic extremism.

"Even Karimov is better than civil war," Abdumajid Pulatov, a human rights activist who fled Mr. Karimov's government, said in an interview in Moscow. "In a civil war, there wouldn't be tens of political prisoners as there are now, but tens of thousands."

In Mr. Utanov's village, religious passions are kept in check not only by fears of Tajikistan-style unrest, but also by memories of the ethnic violence that killed hundreds in a nearby part of the Fergana Valley in 1990.

"That we don't want," Mr. Utanov says, pointing towards Tajikistan.

To him, being Muslim means following old Uzbek traditions. In his house, heads are covered, and at meals everybody makes gestures of thanks to Allah.

"Religion is not very developed here," said another teacher, Khidoyat Kambayeva, who, like virtually all village women, wears a headscarf. "Mainly old people follow religion."

## Nabulsi reviews economic reforms

(Continued from page 12)

For instance, Jordan's annual economic growth used to be around 10 per cent during the 70s before starting a decline and moving into "zero" in the late 80s. With the implementation of the programme, the Kingdom's economy recovered — its growth, posting an average of six per cent in the last two years after registering 11 per cent in 1992.

"The question here is: Do we measure this growth rate against the corresponding figures of the 70s or against the zero growth rate in the late 80s?" he said.

The seminar, entitled "The IMF and the Arab Countries:

Present and Future," was organised by the Amman-based Arab Institute for Banking and Financial Studies in a new programme under the theme "Press and Mass Media Forum."

On Saturday and Sunday, IMF experts sought to give a detailed picture of the world body and the parameters it applies in its work with a view to familiarising the media.

Addressing the meetings were Ahmad Abushadi and Ednouard Maciejewski, senior officials of the Washington-based body. The seminar also involved panel discussions.

The topics that were dealt with at the seminar were "The Role and Functions of

the IMF," "IMF-supported Macroeconomic Stabilisation and Structural Adjustment — an Evolving Process," "Economic Policy, Public Interest and the Role of the Media," "Design of IMF-supported Structural Programmes — Key Policy Instruments and Structural Reform Components," "Economic Reforms in the Arab Countries and Future Challenges," "The IAF and the Arab Countries."

On Sunday, Osmal Al Ansari, advisor to the London-based Arab Bank for International Investment, addressed the gathering's concluding session and briefly outlined activities in the international securities market and related agencies.

# U.S. policy-makers fear new isolationist trend

By Patrick Worsnip  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — U.S. foreign policy-makers are worried about a new tide of isolationism they see sweeping across America and, in particular, waning support for the idea that the country needs to be involved in European security.

As public servants, they are reluctant to take political sides, but there is little doubt that the Republican takeover of Congress this month, which has brought a number of right-wingers to prominent positions, has boosted their fears.

The long agony of Bosnia and the more recent debacle of the Russian attack on Chechnya have also done much to spread the notion that, now that the Soviet nuclear threat has passed, the United States should stay away from Europe's quarrels.

Such views represent a serious obstacle to State Department personnel and other officials engaged in trying to build what they call a new European "architecture" to replace the East-West divide of the cold war.

Government leaders from President Bill Clinton downwards insist that they

can work with Congress, which in any case has only limited power to alter foreign policy. But it is the public mood more than the Congress itself that concerns them.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke told a meeting of officials and analysts this week that there was "overwhelming scepticism" about the idea that U.S. national interests require an engaged international security policy.

Sensators had "told me flatly that that simple truth is the one thing they can't sell to their constituents," sources present quoted Mr. Holbrooke as saying.

"While we in this room can agree about the policy of NATO expansion, or how to deal with Chechnya, to the American public policy it's all crap," he said. "They don't want any part of it."

Despite this, officials say the administration will press ahead with the policy of admitting East European nations to NATO at some undefined future date and boosting the 53-nation Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

The obstacles are foreign as well as domestic. The three-year-old Bosnian war

shows no sign of ending and Russia has objected strongly to the NATO expansion plan.

The war in Chechnya — where Russian President Boris Yeltsin claimed Thursday to have crushed a rebellion after a bloody five-week onslaught — has raised doubts over whether Washington should still treat him as a strategic ally.

"We are trying to create a new security architecture while parts of the house are on fire," Mr. Holbrooke conceded.

But to Washington there is no alternative and not only because European countries, Washington believes, are still looking for American leadership.

In the U.S. view, NATO cannot remain an exclusive Western club, while to drop Mr. Yeltsin means risking the loss of all the cooperation achieved with Russia since the cold war. At worst, it could mean a return to nuclear confrontation.

Many critics, however, both in and out of Congress, question the administration's assumptions.

At the moment, the main challenge to the Clinton foreign policy is shaping up as an assault on its foreign aid programme — of which

Russia is a leading beneficiary — and the Agency for International Development (AID) which administers it.

Jesse Helms, a conservative North Carolina Republican and the new chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has charged that much aid goes down "foreign ratholes," and one bill already before Congress wants to abolish aid and slash foreign assistance.

Some, though far from all, Republicans are opposed to sending U.S. troops to patrol the Golan Heights in the event of a peace deal between Israel and Syria, though a U.S. presence is widely considered the linchpin of any agreement.

Government officials are fighting back, but AID administrator Brian Atwood admits a problem of perception. Most Americans, he said this week, think 20 per cent of their dollars go for foreign aid, while the real figure is less than one-half of one per cent.

A worried administration is looking at plans to merge AID and another independent body, the arms control and disarmament agency, into the state department.

Publicly, Mr. Clinton rejects a new isolationism. In a speech in Cleveland, Ohio, last week he blamed such a U.S. policy after World War I for encouraging the rise of Nazism and other extremist ideologies in Europe.

Mr. Clinton told a conference on trade and investment in Eastern and Central Europe that it was tempting for Americans to say "look, we've got more problems than we can handle here at home, so let's just forget about the rest of the world."

But, he went on, "the whole future of the world and the future of our children here in the United States depend on our continued involvement and leadership in the world."

Some foreign affairs groups, however, such as the Coalition for American Leadership Abroad, fear Mr. Clinton himself may succumb to similar temptations.

In a letter to the president this week, signed by leaders of 11 think-tanks and pressure groups, the coalition urged him to shun "pre-emptive capitulation to isolationist voices across the nation and on Capitol Hill."

## Suicide explosions kill 18 in Israel

(Continued from page 1)

by a few seconds having joined those killed at the bus stop.

Mr. Arafat, who like Mr. Rabin has staked his political life on the safe-rule accord, condemned the attack by the "enemies of peace."

The bombing was the bloodiest since another militant group, Hamas, sent a member on a suicide mission to Tel Aviv last October which killed 22 people.

At least 109 Israelis and 195 Palestinians have been killed since the September 1993 Israel-PLO deal.

Opposition leaders demanded an end to the peace talks and members of Mr. Rabin's own Labor Party voiced doubts about the negotiations although they stopped short of calling for their suspension.

U.S. President Bill Clinton condemned the bomb attack and said: "Once again, the enemies of peace have struck down innocent people in an evil effort to destroy the hopes of peaceful coexistence between Israelis and Arabs."

Mr. Rabin convened an emergency cabinet session Sunday evening to determine the government's response.

The first step was a complete closure of the occupied territories, blocking the movement of all Palestinians into Israel. It has been the response after each similar attack and has kept tens of thousands of Palestinians away from jobs in Israel.

Mr. Rabin underscored the deepening concern about such carnage by making his first personal inspection tour of a suicide bombing site.

"There is no doubt in my mind that this action may be another attempt by the extreme Islamic terror groups to achieve their dual goal of killing Israelis and halting the peace process," he said.

Islamic Jihad also issued

leaflets in both Gaza and in Damascus claiming responsibility for the double-barrelled suicide mission.

"This operation is the genuine retool to the continuous daily expansion of the enemy's settling process in the West Bank and Jerusalem," Fathi Shikaki, secretary-general of the group, said in an interview with Al Noor radio in Beirut, Lebanon.

Most of the 18 Israelis killed and 62 wounded in Sunday's attack were soldiers, although the dead included at least one elderly civilian man.

Associated Press reporter Mike Rotem, one of the first journalists who arrived at the scene, said victims were groaning and calling for help.

The brunt of the explosion was taken by a single army company, one of a special unit deployed to guard bus stops, especially on Sundays when they are crowded with troops returning from weekend furloughs.

Kit bags, jackets and the red berets of the elite paratrooper unit, many of them bloodstained, lay scattered among the broken glass and other debris after the blast. Religious medical teams combed the ground and the trees for scattered bits of flesh, since Jewish law requires all body parts to be buried.

"There was a huge explosion. We came outside and saw everything was charred. As I moved toward the snack bar, I saw body parts, heads, arms, a God-awful scene," said eyewitness Haim Herskovitz.

Bella Zioni, 42, who owns the snack shop, was inside with her husband and son and at first thought she had been knocked to the floor by an electric shock.

"By the time I was able to

get up there was another explosion. Again, the entire roof collapsed and the solar panels fell on me," she said from her hospital bed.

The explosion erupted at the Beit Lid junction, also known as the Sharon junction near the coastal town of Netanya, about 9:30 a.m. (0730 GMT). The site, named after an Arab village that once stood, there is 30 kilometres northeast of Tel Aviv and about 10 kilometres from the West Bank.

The blast occurred across the street from Ashmoret prison, where Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the spiritual leader of Hamas, has been serving a life sentence since 1989 for ordering the killing of Israeli informants and other activities against the occupation.

Officials said the two explosions were about three minutes apart.

Survivors reported a man wearing a uniform doubled over as if to throw up who they believe exploded the first bomb outside the snack bar. When soldiers rushed up to see what happened the second bomb erupted.

The bombs are believed constructed by a fugitive Palestinian chemist and Hamas member named Yehia Ayash, nicknamed "the engineer." He is believed to have built the bombs in a number of similar attacks, including the one in Tel Aviv in October that killed 22 people.

Arafat aides said he phoned Mr. Rabin to condemn the attack and express his condolences.

"Every time we make progress in the negotiations ... some people carry out criminal acts aimed at stopping this progress," Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying.

## Rains hinder rescue efforts

(Continued from page 1)

(\$1.5 billion), insurance agents have told Britain's Sunday Telegraph newspaper.

The bill, if confirmed, would be one of the heaviest marine claims to hit the market from a single disaster in its three centuries of operations, the weekly paper said.

Kobe steel owners set up their own patrols after looting broke out in the city's biggest shopping mall, the first outbreak since the disaster in Japanese society's acclaimed civility.

Around 10 million yen (\$100,000) worth of goods were taken from the town centre mall, shopowners said Sunday.

Japan's bungled attempt to cope with the quake has been highlighted by reported arguments within the bureaucracy over whether it was a "particularly terrible disaster" or not.

Designating a disaster as "particularly terrible" determines how much money is allocated to the victims by the central government.

The National Land Agency first proposed cheap loans to small and medium-sized businesses to help them recover from the quake, the Mainichi Shimbun reported over the weekend.

But the agency backed down on Friday, saying there was not enough time to complete the necessary paperwork, the newspaper said.

The government then de-

cided at a subsequent cabinet meeting that the quake should be "dealt with in the same manner as that officially designated as a particularly terrible disaster," Mainichi said.

A British rescue team and the country's first consignment of relief supplies are scheduled to arrive on Monday, while Australia will start delivering 200,000 litres (52,000 gallons) of bottled mineral water the same day.

A 66-year-old man and a 78-year-old woman were rescued Sunday after spending 128 hours buried in the debris.

Doug Copp of the American rescue team based in San Francisco said there was a "good possibility" that more survivors would still be found. But rains dampened hopes.

Rescuers from the United States and France used tracking dogs to comb the rubble of a collapsed elevated railway station but found neither bodies nor survivors.

"So far we've come up with zero" in two days of searching, said Carolyn Hebard, who works with a German shepherd named Pascha.

Heavy rain fell for most of the day Sunday, raising fears of landslides and shifting debris. Police evacuated hundreds of people from about 34 landslide-prone neighbourhoods.

But no major mud slides were reported by Sunday night, and the forecast called for skies to clear Monday afternoon.

## Grozny under fire

(Continued from page 1)

Russian Jiguli sedan doing a sudden about-turn at the weekend just before a roadblock.

The five fighters inside were apparently trying to get to nearby Bamut which is being bombed by the Russians. But they nearly ran into a roadblock manned by supporters of multimillionaire Beslan Gantemirov, a sworn enemy of Mr. Dudayev.

Just 10 kilometres away, it was the opposite story. Residents of a small village in the Chatoi region stopped the Gantemirov supporters from ferrying arms towards Grozny, apparently to pro-Russian partisans.

Arietta, who lost her son in the fighting last week, told AFP: "We couldn't let them pass. It's shameful for Chechnya to help the Russians."

In Moscow hundreds of people gathered near the headquarters of the Soviet Union's former KGB security police on Sunday to mourn the victims of Russia's bloody attempt to crush tiny Chechnya's independence bid.

Former reform chief Yegor Gaidar and human rights commissioner Sergei Kovalyov both called for an end to the seven-week campaign.

## Israeli cabinet

(Continued from page 1)

thorise public investment on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip for public building and infrastructure such as schools, kindergartens and clinics. It would also examine private building plans.

Six ministers abstained in a vote on the decision, but no one opposed it.

The committee will review housing ministry plans.

They include a project to build 7,500 homes for Palestinians as well as 4,000 for Israelis in and around Jerusalem this year, Israel radio reported.

By the end of the year 7,500 homes would be ready for Palestinians in the areas of Shufar, Abu Dis and Al

Azzariyaha, the radio said.

At the same time 1,080 units would be built in Maale Adumim, 800 in Givat Zeev, 900 in Betar and several dozen in Givon Hadasha, all settlements outside Jerusalem.

Mr. Rabin pledged last week in talks with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat that a freeze on government spending for settlement building would be effective and that no more land would be seized for houses.

The pledge came after Palestinian calls to halt the autonomy negotiations and resignation threats by left-wing ministers over settlement construction.

A partial freeze on settlements announced by Mr. Rabin after winning the 1992 general elections was not applied to "greater Jerusalem."

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# World Bank remains upbeat on private money flows to developing world

PARIS (AFP) — Private capital flows into developing countries hit an estimated record \$173 billion last year, a four-fold increase from 1989, and Mexico's finance crisis is unlikely to reverse the upward trend, the World Bank affirmed Sunday.

It said developing countries' share in global foreign direct investment (FDI) rose sharply to 37 per cent of the total in 1993, from 29 per cent in 1992, with China emerging as the world's largest single recipient of foreign investment, reporting inflows totalling \$26 billion.

Presenting its annual report on developing country debt and financial flows, senior World Bank economist said the massive expansion of private flows was rooted in "real economic transformation" including the liberalisation and privatisation.

Investors' flight from Mexico after the hungrier year-end peso devaluation reflected a "very specific" Mexican problem, Malvina Pollock, coauthor of the report, told reporters here.

After initial "panic" on the markets — including turmoil in Asia — they were likely to threaten the financial system, as did the Third World debt crisis when it erupted a decade ago, she said.

The World Bank projected an overall 1994 net resource flow of \$227 billion to the developing world, an all-time high.

But this would be only a "modest" rise over the 1993

figure of \$213 billion, which marked a 40 per cent jump from 1992 to more than twice the 1990 level of \$103 billion.

The World Bank linked this to a sharp slowdown in net long-term private capital flows, which were up by just under 9.0 per cent after a massive 55 per cent rise in 1993 to \$159 billion.

It said the slowdown was due to price corrections in some overvalued emerging markets, fuelled by rising U.S. interest rates from early in 1994, which triggered turmoil in the bond markets, and "adverse political and economic developments" in some developing countries.

The virtual explosion of private flows in 1993 was due mainly to economic reforms in many developing countries, which restored their creditworthiness in the wake of the commercial debt crisis, now in its "twilight" phase, it said.

A "spectacular" surge in portfolio equity investment which reached \$47 billion in 1993, a 13-fold increase from 1989, was a key feature, spurred by financial liberalisation, easier foreign access to emerging stock markets and large-scale privatisations.

But the World Bank projected a decline last year \$39.5 billion in this component, as market corrections cooled the enthusiasm for such investment.

Bond issues by developing countries on the international capital market more than doubled in 1993 to a gross total of \$53 billion.

But the World Bank forecast a decline to \$50 billion in

1994 in the wake of the turbulence that hit world bond markets as U.S. interest rates turned up.

The declines in these two sectors were likely to be largely offset, however, by a continued steady expansion of FDI, which rose by 42 per cent in 1993 to \$67 billion and should increase moderately to \$78 billion in 1994.

Asian middle income countries secured about 56 per cent of these non-debt-creating flows while another 25 per cent went to Latin America, the World Bank said.

Private capital now accounts for three-quarters of all long-term flows to the developing world, up from 44 per cent in 1990, the report said.

Official aid, on the other hand, has more or less stagnated at about \$54.5 billion, after peaking at just under \$62 billion in 1991 in the wake of the Gulf war.

While most low-income countries, including Sub-Saharan Africa, more and more rely on official development finance, most private flows went to 20-odd East Asian and Latin American middle-income countries.

But Asia's two low-income giants, China and India — with a 1993 per capita GNP of respectively \$490 and \$290 — also benefited from these flows.

The World Bank said developing nations' overall, which stood at \$658 billion in 1980, was just short of the \$2,000 billion mark at end-1994.

Information technology was projected as vital for national economic growth as the high-level conferences aimed at meeting the needs of the Gulf's fast growing communications and broad-

## Information projected as vital for growth

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Ministers of the Saudi-led Gulf alliance have agreed on measures that will lower interferences on telecommunications frequencies, especially in border areas, the secretary-general announced.

Sheikh Fahim Al Qassimi, secretary-general of the Gulf Cooperation Council, said that the ministers also agreed that telephone revenues will be split between initiator and receiving countries. Previously, the initiator country kept the revenues.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain in a 15-year-old alliance seeking gradual movement toward a European-style common market.

Other decisions at the conference chaired by Bahrain's Transport Minister Ali Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, included setting up a committee to study unification of postal fees, and ratifying a programme for training of workers in the telecommunications field.

The ministers of transport, communications, post, telegraphs and telephones met on the sidelines of the 8th Middle East Electronic Communications Show and Conference that Bahrain hosts every two years. The event, which brings together international experts and latest products in the field, is accompanied by a separate show and conference on the latest in electronic and broadcasting technology.

Information technology was projected as vital for national economic growth as the high-level conferences aimed at meeting the needs of the Gulf's fast growing communications and broad-

casting industries went under way earlier in the day.

"Information in the 21st century will be vital for national economic growth," said Bahrain's transport minister.

Greg Nelson, vice president and general manager of Motorola's European, Middle-East and Africa paging products division, was even more specific.

"The world is on the brink of what will become known as the great age of telecommunications," he told the conference in a keynote address.

"Around the world we see emerging economies place telecommunications at the top of their priority lists," Sheikh Khalifa noted that Bahrain has joined forces with the rest of the Gulf Cooperation Council — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates — to install a fiber optic link across the Gulf, named Fog.

The cable will connect eventually with the global fiber link known as Flag, he said.

Bahrain also took a share in the sea-me-we II cable which runs from Singapore to France, he said.

Mr. Nelson said the telecommunications industry was forecast to be worth \$3 trillion by the year 2010.

The Middle East is experiencing health growth as oil economies diversify, Lebanon rebuilds after a 15-year civil war, and the Palestinians settle into autonomy, all creating a market for modern communications of all types, he said.

Motorola estimated that Bahrain, an island of half a million, had 55,000 pagers in use, and that today there were over 50 million pagers in use around the world.

## Oman seeks to end budget deficit by year 2000 — official

MUSCAT (R) — Oman, a small Gulf oil producer, intends to bring its budget deficit to zero in the next five-year development plan which starts in 1996, a World Bank official said Sunday.

Ram Chopra, director of the bank's Middle East and North Africa division, spoke to reporters after talks with Oman's Sultan Qaboos Bin Said and Omani officials on the economy.

He said Sultan Qaboos "is very committed to making sure that in the next development plan (1996-2000) budget deficits are to be brought to zero," he said.

"Oman like other countries in the Gulf has been facing budgetary difficulties," Mr. Chopra's visit was linked to giving the Arab Gulf state advice on planning a conference Oman is to hold in June to address its domestic economic policies.

He said he was "satisfied

that it is fully released in Oman that action needs to be taken to address the issues of budget difficulties, increasing public savings..."

World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) reports last year said Oman needed to cut spending and raise revenues to reduce unsustainable budget deficits.

Oman has started implementing some of the ideas in the World Bank report, many of which emerged when a team visited Oman in early 1993, including giving the private sector a greater role.

Spending and the deficit were budgeted to rise slightly this year, Oman said in January it expects its 1995 budget deficit to rise to 312 million riyals (\$810.3 million) from 301 million riyals (\$781.8 million) in 1994.

Oman's 1994 actual budget deficit appears to have been cut by close to a quarter from

1993 — figures for the first 10 months of each year show a decline to 237 million riyals (\$616 million) from 310 million (\$806 million).

Current spending also rose, the opposite of what the IMF and World Bank recommended.

The current spending increase included a rise in defence spending to 667 million riyals (\$1.73 billion) in 1995 from 612 million (\$1.59 billion) in 1994. That is a 28 per cent share of total budgeted spending of 2.16 billion riyals (\$5.62 billion).

Mr. Chopra said Oman needs to place special emphasis on employment and the labour sector.

Its population is growing at 3.5 to 3.9 per cent per year, among the highest in the Middle East. Half the population is 15 or under, young Omanis who will soon be seeking jobs.

## Rampant statistics fraud hampers China's planning

BEIJING (AFP) — China has uncovered more than 70,000 cases of statistics fraud in the past seven months, Xinhua has said, reflecting a growing trend that is severely hampering macro-economic planning.

More than 20,000 of the cases involved "false reports, deceptions, forgeries and distortions," the official news agency said, citing sources involved in a joint national inspection by the State Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Supervision and the State Council's Bureau of Legislative Affairs.

According to the investigation, a large number of officials across the country are turning in falsified economic data for industrial output, investment and per capita income, as well as hog population figures.

The trend has grown in recent years with the practice of awarding bonuses or promotions to cadres who

can claim major successes in implementing central socio-economic policies in their regions.

"As a matter of fact, figures have become the decisive factor in getting promotion in some areas, and once you are promoted in that way, you tend to keep on reporting false figures," said a participant at a national statistics working conference in Beijing.

Fabricating statistics had disastrous consequences in China during the 1958 Great Leap Forward when officials — faced with unachievable agricultural and industrial output targets — falsified crop figures and helped plunge the country into a famine that killed millions.

More than 32,000 cases involved officials delaying or simply refusing to make reports, Xinhua said, deprecating what it described as "this deplorable phenomenon."

## German unions, employers seek compromise in pay round

BONN (R) — German trade unions have signalled ahead of this year's pay round and a key meeting with Chancellor Helmut Kohl that they are ready to stop considering pay cuts as taboo if it means attacking high unemployment.

Employers have also said, in a country where consensus between the two sides has been the key to post-war economic success, that they could be prepared to compromise if unions agree to give up some rigid working practices.

The newspaper Soontag-Express quoted an unnamed union chief as saying that accepting pay cuts would be the price to pay for a long-standing demand by the unions — further cuts in working times which are already the shortest in Europe.

Unions hope cuts in hours could be used to create more

jobs or at least safeguard existing ones, as in a ground-breaking model agreed with Volkswagen A.G. (V.W.) car workers last year.

"Under certain conditions we would give up our principle of shorter hours with full pay," the union chairman said. "Shorter working hours cost money. We are ready to accept pay cuts to cover these costs if the employers commit themselves in writing to employ correspondingly more workers."

Roland Isen, chairman of the D.A. white-collar union, added: "We have to accept that shorter working times can't be achieved on full pay."

The sacrifice of what has been a sacred cow to the unions is a recognition that economic recovery has hardly dented the ranks of more than 3.5 million unemployed in Germany and that firms

used the recession to rationalise and cut labour needs.

Last year the chemicals union I.G. Chemie agreed to a low two per cent pay rise in exchange for job security. Workers at Volkswagen, Europe's biggest carmaker, saved 30,000 jobs by agreeing to a four-day week with corresponding pay cuts.

But ominously, V.W. says it has rationalised so far that the jobs will have to go sooner or later. And more and more manufacturers are building their new factories outside Germany.

Union bosses met last week to prepare a paper for their meeting with Mr. Kohl Wednesday. The gathering could set the tone for this spring's pay talks and — so unions and employers hope — avert a repeat of 1994's engineering sector pay strikes.

### EUROPARTINARIAT Dortmund, Germany 1995

Announcement  
By  
Jordan Export Development & Commercial  
Centres Corporation JEDCO

To the Business Community. As a Europartinarat (a European Business Partnership Organising Scheme) National Counselor, we invite you to participate in the:

**Europartinarat Nordrhein-Westfalen 1995**

Which will take place in the city of Dortmund-Germany during the period 20-21/3/1995, with over 350 German companies from the following sectors will be participating in this event:

- 01) Building.
- 02) Textiles & clothing.
- 03) Food products & beverages.
- 04) Metal working & processing.
- 05) Electrical engineering, electronics.
- 06) Services, research and development.
- 07) Furniture, wood, paper, printing industry.
- 08) Trade mediation, wholesale and retail trade.
- 09) Process, measuring and control engineering, optics.
- 10) Chemical industry, plastic products, glass & ceramics
- 11) Mechanical engineering, plant and motor vehicle engineering

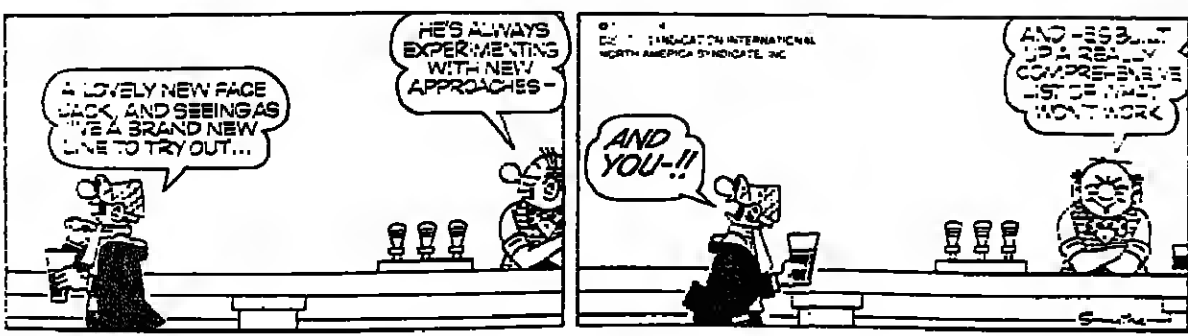
Participating German companies will be ready to go into partnership business deals and joint ventures with interested Jordanian businessmen. This will cover all areas of technical, commercial and service partnership.

For more information, please call our Marketing Department at (603507), or visit our offices located behind the Ministry of Industry & Trade.

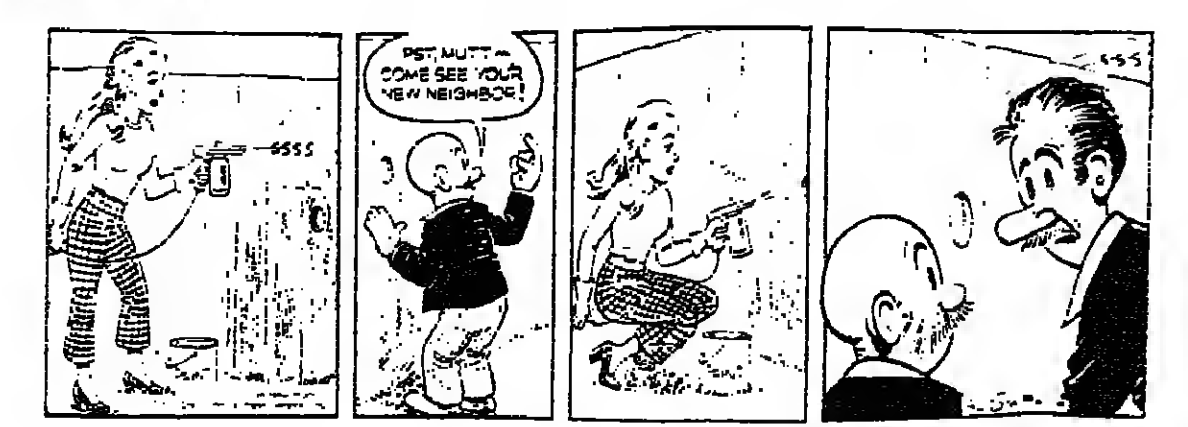
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



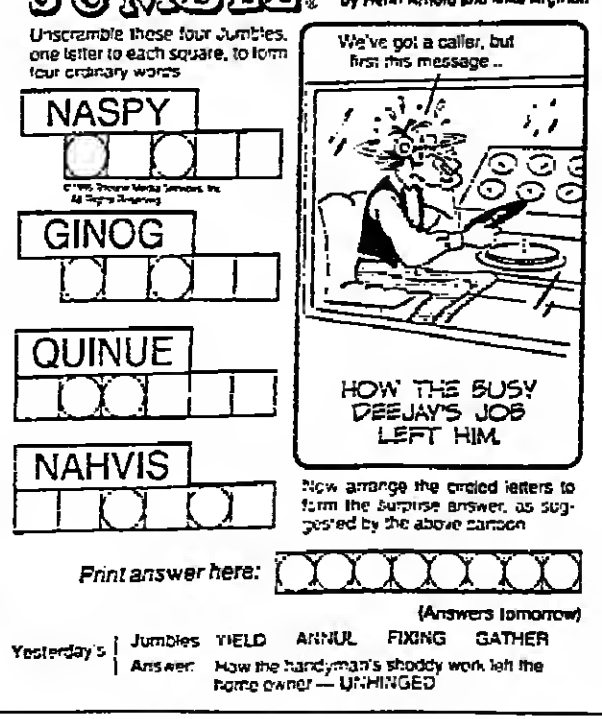
## Mutt'n'Jeff



## THE BETTER HALF



## JUMBLE



## Horoscope not received



business & daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

### No capital gain tax

First class official said that the income tax law was withdrawn from a new draft, which did not include a capital gain tax and would not differentiate between individual companies, is being prepared (Al Aswaj).

Amman was selected as the secretariat of the economic development group which was formed after the multilateral talks on the Middle East. The secretariat will follow up on the recommendations of the working group (Al Aswaj).

Loans and grants extended by the Development Employment Fund for last year totalled JD 13,000, that financed 512 jobs and created 1,329 opportunities. The overall lending since inception, in 1991, until end of 1994, reached JD 7,840; it financed 2,112 jobs and created 4,950 opportunities. 32.2 per cent of the credits benefitted from Amman while per cent financed from Jeddah, Madaba's share 8.2 per cent while Zarqa Ajloun followed with 6.6 per cent and 6.4 per cent respectively (Al Aswaj).

International prices of goods have risen from a tonne to \$1,100 a tonne, and as such, tahineh and other prices to JD 1.45 per kg, compared to JD 1.00 previously. With prices of tahineh going up, the price of a plate of mous is expected to go up (Al Aswaj).

The number of computer users exceeds 350, with a notable presence in Garis Street (Wasfi Al Tal). However, only 10 of these users are able to enter data. With high demand for computers from individuals and government ministries, the computer sector is expected to remain active in the future (Al Aswaj).

Coffee prices went down an average of JD 1 per kg. As a result, a gramme now costs JD 5.5, an official source at the Ministry of Supply said the price was continuing its decline to traders to further reduce prices to JD 4.5 a gramme as coffee prices falling internationally (Al Aswaj).

Zarqa Educational and Cultural Company is launching a subscription for shares floated to all its shareholders registered on 1.1.1995. The new shares, at a JD 1.200 (JD par value) plus 300 fils premium, will be sold at the rate of JD 1.500. Shareholders must buy more than 50 per cent of their equity as of Jan. 29, 1995. This private subscription ends on Jan. 29, 1995 (Al Aswaj).

The Zarqa Municipality is expected to be on the same level of the municipality spent JD 5.1 million last year against a budget of JD 5.3 million. The figures representing 77 per cent and 86 per cent respectively of the amounts estimated in the budget (Al Aswaj).

Royal Jordanian Air Force is expected to be on the same level of the municipality spent JD 5.1 million last year against a budget of JD 5.3 million. The figures representing 77 per cent and 86 per cent respectively of the amounts estimated in the budget (Al Aswaj).

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# Business & Finance

**Italian police seize 13 million fake dollars**

MILAN, Italy (R) — Italian police seized 13 million fake U.S. dollars, worth \$13 million, in a major operation. The fake bills, which were printed in a high-tech plant in the north, were found in a warehouse in the town of Mantova. The police believe the fake bills were destined for export to the United States.

**Police arrest Italian Mafia fugitive**

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — A Mafia fugitive, who had been on the wanted list of the Italian government for 19 years, was arrested by police in Rio de Janeiro. The fugitive, who was known as "Ciccio", was arrested after a long chase. He was found in a hideout in the city. The police believe he was involved in several crimes, including drug trafficking and extortion.

**Snow scooter owners protest against environmentalists**

UKKASJÄRVI, Finland (R) — Snow scooter owners staged a protest against environmentalists in Ukkasjärvi, Finland. The owners claimed that the environmentalists were trying to ban the use of snow scooters, which they used for recreation. They argued that the scooters were not harmful to the environment and that they were a popular winter sport.

**Non-Jewish student suspended for wearing star of David**

MENDON, Michigan (R) — A high school student was suspended for wearing a star of David on his clothing. The student, who was Jewish, was suspended for violating the school's dress code. The school principal claimed that the star of David was a religious symbol and that it was not allowed to be worn on school property.

**China attempts control lottery**

BEIJING (R) — China's government is attempting to control the lottery market. The government has issued new regulations that require all lottery tickets to be sold through authorized channels. The government also wants to increase its share of the lottery revenue.

## Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

### 'No capital gain tax'

★ "First class" official sources said that the income tax draft law was withdrawn and that a new draft, which would not include a capital gain tax and would not differentiate between individuals and companies, is being prepared (Al Aswaq).

★ Amman was selected as the site for the secretariat of the economy development working group, which was formed after the multilateral negotiations on the Middle East. The secretariat will follow up on the recommendations of the working group (Al Ra'i).

★ Loans and grants extended by the Development and Employment Fund (DEF) last year totalled JD 3,283,910, that financed 813 projects and created 1,329 jobs. The fund's overall lending since its inception in 1991, until the end of 1994, reached JD 10,347,840; it financed 2,112 projects and created 4,930 jobs. The fund's lending in 1994, reached JD 1,347,840; it financed 2,112 projects and created 4,930 jobs. The fund's lending in 1994, reached JD 1,347,840; it financed 2,112 projects and created 4,930 jobs.

★ International prices of sesame seeds have risen from \$750 a tonne to \$1,100 a tonne, and, as such, tahinih (sesame paste) factories raised their prices to JD 1.45 a kilogramme, compared to JD 1.000 previously. With the prices of tahinih going up, the price of a plate of hummus is expected to go up too (Al Aswaq).

★ The number of computer businesses exceeds 350, with a noticeable presence in Garden Street (Wafiq Al Tal). However, only 10 of these businesses are able to enter large tenders. With high demand for computers from banks and government ministries, the computer sector is expected to remain active in the near future (Al Aswaq).

★ Coffee prices went down by an average of JD 1 per kilogramme. As a result, a kilogramme now costs JD 5. An official source at the Ministry of Supply said the ministry was continuing its demands to traders to further lower prices to JD 4.5 a kilogramme as coffee prices are falling internationally (Al Ra'i).

★ Zaqra Educational and Investment Company is accepting subscription for new shares floated to all its shareholders registered on Jan. 8, 1995. The new shares, priced at JD 1,200 (JD par value and 200 JDS premium), reflect the increase in JD capital of the company by JD 1.5 million. Shareholders cannot buy more than 50 per cent of their equity as of Jan. 8, 1995. This private subscription ends on Jan. 29, 1995 (Al Ra'i).

★ The Zaqra Municipality is finalising its 1995 budget which is expected to be around the same level of 1994, JD 6.7 million. The municipality spent JD 5.1 million last year against a revenue of JD 5.3 million, the figures representing 77 per cent and 86 per cent respectively of the amounts estimated in the budget (Al Ra'i).

★ Royal Jordanian announced starting the modernisation of its cargo fleet, which consists of three Boeing 707s. Royal Jordanian carried 55,000 tonnes of cargo in 1994, 1.5 per cent more than previous year. The cargo fleet is expected to increase flight hours to 8,800 this year (Al Ra'i).

★ The Ministry of Education has agreed with the central bank on issuing special bonds to raise JD20 million to support the bousing fund for teachers. The mechanism for the teachers to obtain housing loans from the fund will be carried out through the Housing Bank (Al Ra'i).

## Hindu groups step up 'Buy Indian' campaign

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Right-wing Hindu groups which once advocated free trade are now urging Indians to shun foreign goods and "Buy Indian" in a stepped-up campaign against the government sweeping economic reforms.

Walls in the capital are scrawled with graffiti denouncing multinational corporations and Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's efforts to globalise an Indian economy that remained largely sheltered until three-and-a-half years ago.

One of the slogans reminds people of a successful crusade against British products which Mahatma Gandhi waged during India's independence struggle in which bonfires were routinely made of foreign goods.

"We want to create a nationalist feeling that every nation has to evolve a mind of its own in economics," S. Gurumurthy, a convenor of the Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM), National Awakening Forum, said in an interview.

"The integration of India with the rest of the world will be restricted to just one per cent of our population," he said, referring to criticism that only the elite have profited from the reforms initiated by New Delhi in June 1991.

"Our ideas are based on an alternative thinking," he said. "A nation should largely live within its means and produce for its own market with trans-country commerce restricted to its needs."

The SJM has been promoted by the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS),

National Volunteer Corps), a powerful Hindu revivalist group and its allies that command hundreds of thousands of supporters.

Mr. Gurumurthy, dressed in clothes made from home-spun cotton, said the SJM wanted Indians to boycott foreign brands like during the country's independence campaign and go for only local products.

"If people do not buy the wasteful hundreds of multinational companies, they would be standing by their country," he said.

Mr. Gurumurthy, a chartered accountant and an RSS activist, said the inflow of foreign goods into the country would stifle domestic industry.

SJM pamphlets urge Indians to shun foreign-made products such as toothpaste, shaving cream, soaps and detergents, cosmetics, soft drinks, paint, canned food

and even crayons, and instead look for Indian alternatives.

The campaign began in November 1992, a year after the reforms got underway, but ebbed after a while. It has resumed with renewed vigour and on a nationwide scale.

"We are surprised at the response from the people," said Mr. Gurumurthy, adding that thousands have attended meetings in cities and towns called to popularise the campaign against globalisation.

When we talk of (self-reliance), we are talking of the way an Indian mind approaches life, including economics," he said. "Our economists do not know the Indian ethos."

"We are advocating a savings-oriented society, a society based on conservation which cannot be based on exports-based models," Mr. Gurumurthy said. "The West cannot appreciate this."

## Jordan National Shipping Lines profits JD 3.75m

AMMAN (R) — Jordan National Shipping Lines Company saw pre-tax profits soar nearly three fold in 1994 from the previous year, company officials said Sunday.

The company posted a record 3,750,000 dinars (\$8.39 million) in pre-tax profits during 1994 from JD 1,348,990 dinars (\$1.94 million) in 1993, a company official told Reuters.

Jordan National Shipping Lines Company is expected to distribute a 40 per cent dividend on par value of JD 1 (\$1.4) per share from 15 per cent in 1993, company sources said.

Its annual general meeting is in April.

The company's record results came partly from JD 1 million (\$1.4 million) in profits from the sale of a 16,271 tonne multi-purpose vessel "Jordan 1" last year and a strong return on its investment portfolio.

Pre-tax profits JD 4.9 million (\$7 million) of investments rose to over JD 2 million (\$2.87 million) from JD 1.650 million (\$2.37 million) in 1993.

The company, with JD 7 million (\$10 million) capital, is 24 per cent held by the private sector with state-owned corporations holding the rest.

A blue chip share in the Amman Financial Market, it saw its price soar a third during 1994 to around 3,500 dinars (\$5).

Assets rose to around 18 million dinars (\$25.86 million) in 1994 from 15 million dinars (\$21.55 million) in 1993.

The company, set up in 1977, owns and operates four vessels: two 15,000 tonne bulk carriers, a 97,000 tonne tanker now used for storage and a ferry. It also charters a multi-purpose vessel.

The company plans to buy three 15,000 tonne bulk carriers for phosphate exports and to sell its oil tanker, bought during the Gulf crisis in 1991 when Iraqi imports were cut off.

Expansion was delayed by the Gulf crisis when a U.S.-led fleet enforcing an U.N. embargo on Iraq discouraged maritime traffic to Jordan's Red Sea port of Aqaba.

Jordan National Shipping Lines Company plans in 1995 to expand cargo routes now focused on northern European to the Gulf, India and the Far East.

Another reason is the introduction of mobile phones, which have exceeded 91,000 lines, including 30,000 on the GSM (Global System for Telecommunication Mobiles) system. Faxes and telegraphic services have also boomed.

Etisalat, set up in 1975, was wholly owned by the government until it sold off 40 per cent of its share to the public in the early 1980s. The move has enabled the company to make high profits despite repeated cuts in charges.

The business upswing, also spurred by Etisalat's monopoly of telecommunications services in the UAE, has prompted the company to consider buying its own satellite, although it is a subscriber to ArabSat, a joint Arab satellite venture that has put three satellites in orbit over the past decade.

A preliminary study carried out by Etisalat recently showed its satellite would cost around 100 million dirhams (\$27.2 million) but it was not clear when it would be bought or who would supply it.

Etisalat officials said the capital increase would come from the company's own resources, adding they had decided to distribute bonus shares to shareholders.

### Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

### Foreign Exchange Market Summary (January 16 - January 20, 1995)

AMMAN — The dollar depreciated sharply against European currencies at the end of last week, while appreciating against the yen. It ended the week 1.51 per cent lower against the mark, 1.29 per cent lower against sterling and 0.85 per cent higher against the yen.

The dollar retreated against the mark and yen Monday, while stabilising against sterling. The dollar's decline was attributed to dealers' concern that the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) might postpone tightening its monetary policy. Analysts pointed out that the release of retail sales and inflation indicators showing slower growth, as well as the Mexican financial crisis might cause the FOMC not to tighten its monetary policy at its next meeting at the end of the month.

The dollar appreciated against other major currencies Tuesday, especially against the yen. The dollar rose on renewed expectations that the FOMC might tighten its monetary policy. These expectations were ignited upon the release of capacity utilisation figures showing an increase from 84.7 per cent in November to 85.4 per cent in December.

The dollar continued its appreciation against the mark and yen Wednesday, while depreciating marginally against sterling. The dollar's appreciation came on the back of continued expectations that the FOMC might tighten its monetary policy. These expectations were bolstered by the release of an economic survey and a statement by the vice chairman of the Federal Reserve. The survey showed that the U.S. economy is still experiencing accelerating growth that might result in inflation. Meanwhile, the vice chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank stated that he would support further tightening of monetary policy.

On Thursday, the dollar declined sharply against other major currencies. Its decline was due to capital flight from Japan to Europe. Analysts attributed this capital flight to investors' fear from the losses that Japanese companies might suffer as a result of the recent earthquake that hit Japan. The dollar also suffered from news that the Bundesbank did not lower its repo rate, contrary to dealers' expectations.

At the end of the week, the dollar continued its depreciation against European currencies, while appreciating against the yen. The dollar suffered from continued capital flows into marks. Dealers' worries that the Federal Reserve might intervene to support the Mexican currency also contributed to the dollar's weakness.

The U.S. unit, thus ended the week at 1.5116 marks, 99.42 yen and at \$1.5888 to sterling.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	13/1/95	20/1/95	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.5885	1.5558	-1.29%
Deutsche Mark	1.5345	1.5116	-1.51%
Swiss Franc	1.2890	1.2702	-1.48%
French Franc	5.2965	5.2335	-1.20%
Japanese Yen	98.55	99.42	10.88%

1 USD Per 100

Euro-Currency Interest Rates

Currency	13/1/1995	20/1/1995	13/1/1995	20/1/1995
U.S. Dollar	5.50	7.06	5.75	6.95
Sterling Pound	5.75	7.25	5.81	6.37
Deutsche Mark	4.68	5.56	4.63	5.62
Swiss Franc	3.43	4.37	3.56	4.43
French Franc	5.37	6.75	5.37	6.62
Japanese Yen	2.12	2.50	2.06	2.37

Interest Rate (BID rates for amounts exceeding 1 million U.S. Dollars; 100,000 in equivalent)

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 22/1/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6960	0.6960
Sterling Pound	1.1043	1.1098
Deutsche Mark	0.4582	0.4605
Swiss Franc	0.5475	0.5502
French Franc	0.1329	0.1336
Japanese Yen	0.6995	0.7030
Dutch Guilder	0.4102	0.4123
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira	0.0437	0.0439
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

\* Per 100

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET

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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 22/01/1995

COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK	100	18400	183.500	184.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	1750	7671	4.350	4.370
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	3989	17061	4.230	4.300
THE HOUSING BANK	4000	23719	5.900	5.950
JORDAN EDWAT BANK	65	198	3.050	3.080
JORDAN CITY BANK	500	794	1.550	1.600
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	23550	89666	3.760	3.820
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	150	652	4.360	4.360
WEST BAKAL SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	3750	5684	1.510	1.550
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	14620	21843	1.470	1.500
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	200	830	4.100	4.150
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	3860	6270	1.600	1.630
<b>SAVES SECTOR</b>	<b>54534</b>	<b>192786</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 129.39</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.48%</b>
ARABIAN SEAS INSURANCE	50	100	2.000	2.000
JORDANIAN LIFE INSURANCE	2000	4880	2.350	2.440
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	6000	18000	2.600	2.550
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	1000	2730	2.730	2.730
<b>INSURANCE SECTOR</b>	<b>9050</b>	<b>23510</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 126.39</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.21%</b>
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	1800	2782	1.540	1.550
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	10000	14901	1.490	1.500
VEHICLES OWNERS FEDERATION	250	1713	6.750	6.850
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	100	492	4.850	4.920
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	33600	114821	3.300	3.440
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	28700	35409	1.230	1.240
JORDANIAN HOTEL INVESTMENT	870	870	1.000	1.000
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONSUMERS HOTELS	3600	8828	2.400	2.450
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	4400	25497	3.500	3.570
<b>SERVICES SECTOR</b>	<b>83700</b>	<b>195367</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 133.73</b>	<b>CHANGE: +1.51%</b>
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	100	2493	23.740	24.930
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	1615	4746	2.920	2.940
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	400	1160	2.880	2.900
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	140	1334	9.510	9.530
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	300	1290	4.300	4.300
THE JORDAN WOODEN MILLS	4666	37094	7.940	7.950
JORDAN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	343	1832	5.320	5.350
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	200	546	2.750	2.730
SPINNING & WEAVING	100	262	2.650	2.620
NAVIA INDUSTRIES	2500	6982	2.770	2.810
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	1750	2820	1.030	1.040
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	152600	131186	0.850	0.870
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	9600	12777	1.410	1.440
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	1200	4920	4.100	4.100
INTERNATIONAL PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	750	2028	2.600	2.730
JORDAN ROBOCOOL INDUSTRIES	3150	4752	1.480	1.520
ALAMUD INDUSTRIES	250	1075	4.400	4.300
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & WATER/SEWER	2100	1722	0.810	0.810
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	600	2918	4.850	4.800
JORDAN SULPHUR-CHEMICALS	1400	2708	1.860	1.940
ARAB CENTER FOR PAPER & CHEMICALS	400	1087	2.670	2.720
UNIVERSAL HOUSING INDUSTRIES	1600	14955	4.150	4.220
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	6650	14498	2.150	2.180
<b>INDUSTRIAL SECTOR</b>	<b>194464</b>	<b>255532</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 127.72</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.40%</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>341748</b>	<b>667295</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 144.39</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.52%</b>

## UAE to boost telecoms investment after business upturn

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is planning to increase investment in its telecommunications sector following a surge in business caused by economic growth, the local press has reported.

The state-controlled Etisalat, the UAE's sole telecommunications body, said it would boost its paid-up capital to 1.86 billion dirhams (\$506 million) from around 1.5 billion dirhams (\$408 million).

The increase means around 62 per cent of the company's authorised capital of three billion dirhams (\$816 million) has been covered.

The increase was decided by Etisalat Board, which reported nearly 11 per cent growth in telephone business.

"The number of telephones in operation in the UAE increased to around 615,000 in 1994 from 553,000 in 1993," Etisalat Director-General Ali Al Owais was quoted as saying by local newspapers.

Experts said the growth was triggered by a surge in business, mainly banking, construction and trade. They said scores of foreign firms were setting up bases in the UAE, while banks and companies operating in the Gulf country were expanding their telecommunications networks to cope with the busi-

ness upturn.

Another reason is the introduction of mobile phones, which have exceeded 91,000 lines, including 30,000 on the GSM (Global System for Telecommunication Mobiles) system. Faxes and telegraphic services have also boomed.

Etisalat, set up in 1975, was wholly owned by the government until it sold off 40 per cent of its share to the public in the early 1980s. The move has enabled the company to make high profits despite repeated cuts in charges.

The business upswing, also spurred by Etisalat's monopoly of telecommunications services in the UAE, has prompted the company to consider buying its own satellite, although it is a subscriber to ArabSat, a joint Arab satellite venture that has put three satellites in orbit over the past decade.

A preliminary study carried out by Etisalat recently showed its satellite would cost around 100 million dirhams (\$27.2 million) but it was not clear when it would be bought or who would supply it.

Etisalat officials said the capital increase would come from the company's own resources, adding they had decided to distribute bonus shares to shareholders.

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## Forest and Newcastle struggle

LONDON (AFP) — Nottingham Forest and Newcastle both failed to challenge the Premiership leaders as heavy rain postponed half of the day's fixtures.

Forest were beaten 2-1 at home by Midlands rivals Aston Villa, whose revival under Brian Little continued as they stretched their unbeaten run to seven matches with a well-deserved victory.

While defeat dented Forest's bid for a European place, the result was another boost to Villa in their attempt to climb well clear of the Premiership's relegation zone.

Villa made the brighter start to the game and were eventually rewarded in the 32nd minute when John Fashanu pounced at the near post to stab home a cross from Irish international Steve Staunton.

Forest hit back in the second half through a Stan Collymore penalty in the 53rd minute after Dutchman Bryan Roy went down under a challenge from Ugo Ehiogu.

Forest enjoyed parity for just 15 minutes before Staunton sent over another cross from which the unmarked Dean Saunders planted his header past Mark Crossley.

Little remained cautious about his side's prospects of Premiership survival, saying: "Although we feel a little more comfortable now, there is still a lot of hard work to be done."

"The lads showed plenty of character and the right attitude, but then they have been doing that for the past few weeks now."

Collymore, Forest's top scorer, hit back at suggestions that his club are on a downward slide after their third league defeat in four matches.

"Obviously, we are bitterly disappointed, but anybody who thinks we are on a downward slide is daft," he said.

Newcastle's hopes of boosting their fading title challenge by landing the title League victory of 1995 were held up by a rejuvenated Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough in a goalless draw.

"You're never really happy with a draw but we didn't do enough to win," said Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan.

Keegan claimed that tiredness after his side's games against Manchester United and Blackburn had been a factor, adding: "I don't want to make anything of it, but I think possibly three games in six days took its toll. It just wasn't a classic."

Arsenal's new 2.5 million pound striker John Hartson eased the pressure on boss

George Graham with a goal that brought some much-needed cheer to their suffering fans and a 1-0 win at Coventry.

Hartson, who was cup-tied as the Gunners crashed out of the FA Cup against Millwall in midweek, he returned to score his first goal for the club 12 minutes from time.

Coventry, who dropped into the bottom four, have now gone nine League games without a win, and their 28-year tenure in the top flight is under real threat.

Everton's twin strikeforce of Duncan Ferguson and Paul Rideout put Joe Royle's Goodison Park revival back on track with the goals that brought a 3-1 victory and added Crystal Palace to the relegation equation.

The Merseysiders had won just one of their previous six outings following a three-game winning start under Royle's command, but they were given a dream opener by four million pound Ferguson.

The former Dundee United and Rangers man, sent off at Arsenal last week, grabbed the fastest goal of the day in the second minute, before completing the scoring two minutes from time with his sixth goal since arriving at Goodison.

Rideout bagged his 11th of the season in the 54th minute as Everton moved out of the relegation places.

There were no family favours on offer at Portman Road, where Ipswich manager George Burley saw his nephew Craig earn Chelsea a point with a last-gasp equaliser.

The Londoners went ahead with a Mark Stein goal after 67 minutes only for second-

bottom Ipswich to equalise five minutes later through Stuart Slater and then take an 80th-minute lead thanks to John Wark's penalty.

But Burley, an 84th-minute substitute, took only four minutes to make his mark with the goal which saved Glen Hoddie's men.

Lyon beat Cannes 3-1 in France's match of the day Saturday to shoot up to second place above Paris St. Germain after garnering six points in the space of just 48 hours.

Lyon, only sixth two days earlier, received a surprise bonus of three points from the league on Thursday but did all their own spadework against Cannes, another candidate for a UEFA Cup berth.

Florian Maurice gave Lyon the lead in the first minute and though Croatian striker Ardan Kozniku equalised midway through the first half, Lyon took a deserved victory through goals from Stephane Roche and Claude-Arnaud Rivenet.

Lyon moved above PSG on number of goals scored. Both are on 41 points, 10 adrift of runaway leaders Nantes.

Cannes stayed fourth as nearest rivals Auxerre and Bordeaux both failed to win.

Auxerre came from behind to draw 1-1 at home to Metz and Bordeaux went down 2-1 in St. Etienne despite taking the lead.

Neither PSG nor Nantes were in action. Their match played 10 days ago and won 3-0 by Nantes, had been brought forward because the Parc Des Princes Stadium was the venue for Saturday's rugby union international between France and Wales.

## LEADING ENGLISH LEAGUE SCORERS

Alan Shearer, Blackburn, 23  
Robbie Fowler, Liverpool, 22  
Ashley Ward, Norwich, 21  
Chris Sutton, Blackburn, 20  
Ian Wright, Arsenal, 20  
Matthew Le Tissier, Southampton, 18  
Juergen Klinsmann, Tottenham, 16  
Andy Cole, Manchester United, 15  
Les Ferdinand, Queens Park Rangers, 14  
Teddy Sheringham, Tottenham, 13  
Ian Rush, Liverpool, 13  
Eric Cantona, Manchester United, 12  
Andre Kanchelskis, Manchester United, 12  
Paul Walsh, Manchester City, 12  
John Spencer, Chelsea, 12

## LEADING FRENCH LEAGUE SCORERS

15 - Patrice Loko (Nantes)  
11 - Alain Cavaglia (Le Havre) Nicolas Ouedec (Nantes)  
10 - Didier Tholot (Marseille), Valdeir (Bordeaux)  
9 - Anton Drobnyak (Bastia), Joel Tchi (Lens)  
8 - Laurent Blanc (St. Etienne), Fabrice Divert (Montpellier), Lillian Lastman (Auxerre), Raf (Paris St. Germain), Roland Wohlfarth (St. Etienne).

## Enthusiasm high as NHL resumes

NEW YORK (AP) — If anything, the National Hockey League's 103-day lockout seemed to make North Americans even more eager for ice hockey.

Sellouts were the norm for the eight openers Friday night, with the biggest crowd being a turnout of 26,387 at the league's largest arena, the Thunderdome in St. Petersburg, Fla.

"I was a little mad before the season started, but it's not going to do any good to not show up," Scott Santos of St. Petersburg said before the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 5-3. "If you're a hockey fan, you're going to watch the games."

There was an octopus on the ice at Joe Louis Arena — a sure sign of a big game in Detroit — and a Stanley Cup banner raised to the rafters at Madison Square Garden.

The fans in New York were in a partying mood as they watched the Rangers raise the championship banner for the first time in 54 years. The Rangers carried the Stanley Cup itself around the ice before the game, which they

lost 2-1 to the Buffalo Sabres.

"We are paying tribute to the most loyal and enthusiastic fans in the NHL," said former Rangers goaltender John Davidson, the Emcee for the 45-minute pregame festivities.

"Without your support, tonight's celebration would not be taking place," he said.

The season's first goal, at 9:11 of the first period, was scored by Tampa Bay's Alexander Selivanov, a 23-year-old from Moscow participating in his first NHL game.

It was the start of an abbreviated 48-game schedule. An 84-game season was supposed to have started last Oct. 1, but teams closed their doors before labour peace

was reached last week.

In Edmonton, where the Oilers opened with a 2-1 victory over the Anaheim Mighty Ducks, longtime Oilers fan Bruce Christensen said he was happy to see the players back in action.

"It's great for the morale of the city," Christensen said. "I wanted to show support for the game in the city and put my unhappy feelings about the way things were going behind me and just press on into the future."

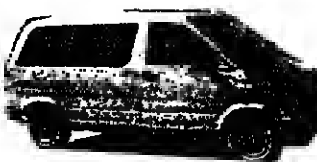
In San Jose, Calif., quarterback Steve Young of the American football team the San Francisco 49ers took part in the ceremonial opening faceoff before the Sharks played the St. Louis Blues.

## NHL RESULTS

Quebec	3	Philadelphia	1
Hartford	2	Washington	1 (OT)
Ny Islanders	1	Florida	1
Ny Rangers	5	Montreal	2
Anaheim	4	Winnipeg	3
San Jose	3	Toronto	2
St. Louis	7	Vancouver	1

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## IOC set to choose finalists for 2002 Games

LAUSANNE (AP) — The race for the 2002 Winter Olympics is about to become much less crowded.

The record field of nine candidate cities — including front-runner Salt Lake City — will be cut to four finalists Tuesday by a special panel of the International Olympic Committee.

There's little suspense over which four will be selected. Based on an IOC evaluation report issued last month, the following are likely to make the cut: Salt Lake City, Ostersund, Sweden, Quebec, Canada and Sion, Switzerland.

"It would be a great surprise if it's not those four," said Jean-Michel Gunz, a member of the Sion bid committee. "In the evaluation report, you can clearly distinguish between that group and the other five."

The others are Graz, Austria; Jaca, Spain; Poprad-Tatry; Slovakia; Sochi, Russia; and Tarvisio, Italy.

All five received poor marks in the IOC report for various logistical, environmental and financial reasons.

All nine cities will make 20-minute presentations to the IOC's 10-man selection committee on Monday.

"Salt Lake City is not only a city that has talked the talk but has walked the walk," bid committee chief Tom Welch said during an Olympic meeting in Atlanta last month.

The other candidates acknowledge Salt Lake City's strength.

"Salt Lake City is the best technical bid," said Gunz, the Sion official. "It's not a surprise to see that. Technically, we can't compare with Salt Lake City. In Europe, we will never have a winter resort connected with a six-lane, highway. But Salt Lake City also had the best bid last time. And look what happened then."

The host city will be elected by the full IOC on June 16 during its session in Budapest, Hungary.

This is the first time the IOC has reduced the field of bidding cities before the final vote. Having nine candidates was too costly.

If successful, the IOC will consider using the

same procedure to trim the list of candidates for the 2004 Summer Olympics. A dozen cities have already expressed interest in bidding for those games.

Apart from weeding out unrealistic candidates, the main reasons for reducing the field is to cut down on the cost of the bidding process. Traditionally, all of the IOC's members — who currently number about 100 — are entitled to visit each of the bidding cities, flying first-class and staying at luxury hotels.

Under the streamlined system for the 2002 Games, the members can only visit the four finalists and must do so in groups. In addition, new restrictions have been enacted to limit the travel and expenses of the bidding committees.

Dave Johnson, vice president of Salt Lake City's bid team, said the new rules have saved his committee around \$1 million.

Salt Lake City has been the established front-runner all along, a position that was reinforced when the IOC report repeatedly praised the bid's "excellent" facilities, venues, roads and financial plans.

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Indeed, in 1991, Salt Lake City lost by four votes to Nagano, Japan, for the

right to host the 1998 Olympics. Despite its technically superior bid, Salt Lake City lost out because IOC members were reluctant to choose an American city so soon after awarding the 1996 Summer Games to Atlanta.

This time, Salt Lake officials hope politics and geography will not work against the city's fifth Olympic bid.

## Pros and cons of 2002 bidders

A brief look at the advantages and disadvantages of the nine cities bidding for the 2002 Winter Olympics, based in part on an IOC evaluation report:

## Salt Lake City

Pros: Most venues ready or needing only slight modifications; single Olympic village; Utah's established Alpine ski resorts; easy access; good highways; plenty of hotels; modern technology; good financial plan and revenue possibilities.

Cons: Front-runner jinx? Chances of making final four: Virtually assured.

## Ostersund, Sweden

Pros: Perseverance (this is Sweden's ninth winter Olympic bid and third straight by Ostersund); Sweden's experience as a winter sports centre; excellent Alpine venues in area; single Olympic village in Ostersund; good accommodation, transportation and media facilities; government guarantee to cover any deficit.

Cons: Proximity to 1994 Lillehammer Games in Norway; concerns over location of bobsled and luge tracks.

Chances of making final four: excellent.

## Quebec

Pros: Local support;

single Olympic village; stress on environmental protection; transportation infrastructure; existing indoor venues; government financial guarantees.

Cons: Cold weather; squabbling over speedskating venue; uncertainty over course for men's downhill; Quebec's secessionist movement; legacy of debt-ridden 1976 Montreal Games.

Chances of making final four: very good.

## Sion, Switzerland

Pros: Public Support (61 per cent approval in referendum); deficit guarantee by federal and regional governments; environmental plan; World Cup standard Alpine ski sites; use of existing venues; Swiss organisation.

Cons: Spread-out venues, including three Olympic villages; travel problems between Sion and bobsled and luge events in St. Moritz; concern over site for opening and closing ceremonies; questions over operating expenditures.

Chances of making final four: good.

## Graz, Austria

Pros: World Cup standard Alpine venues in Haus and Schladming.

Cons: Public referendum on bid not to be held until the spring; substantial travel time between Graz and Schladming; proposed date of games conflicts with other skiing and ice hockey events; environmental concerns over bobsled and luge venue; no agreement yet on financial guarantees; budget not specific.

Chances of making final four: poor.

## Poprad-Tatry, Slovakia

Pros: Winter sports experience in Tatras mountain region; good conditions for Alpine and nordic events.

Cons: State of Slovak economy; environmental concerns; spread-out accommodation; few facilities built; risky financial plan.

Chances of making final four: poor.

## Jaca, Spain

Pros: Telecommunications and information technology; Spain's experience in hosting 1992 Barcelona Games.

Cons: no referendum or survey of public support; spread-out concept between Spain and Andorra; no real games centre; no downhill course approved; possible warm temperatures for nordic events; no detailed plans for Olympic villages; transportation concerns.

Chances of making final four: very poor.

## Tarvisio, Italy

Pros: Good Alpine ski venue in Kranjska Gora, Slovenia.

Cons: impracticability of holding the games in three countries; Italy, Slovenia and Austria; current strained relations between Italy and Slovenia; conditional Austrian support; logistical, legal and financial problems; spread-out concept; insufficient financial guarantees.

Chances of making final four: very poor.

## Tip-in gives Cleveland win in double overtime

DENVER (R) — "Little" Steve Colter snuck in among the big men to make a tip-in with two-tenths of a second left in double overtime that lifted the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 101-100 victory over the Denver Nuggets on Saturday.

Danny Ferry missed a 15-footer but the six-foot-three (1.90 metres) Colter, who had tied game with 4.8 seconds left in regulation, tipped in the errant shot.

"I don't know where Jalen (Rose) was on the last play," said Colter, who slipped past the taller Nugget guarding him.

"He was probably trying to block out one of the big guys. Just look at me, do I look like a guy you need to block out for a rebound? I just slipped in behind and the ball came off right where I needed it."

The undermanned Cavaliers were able to win without guards Mark Price and Terrell Brandon and forward Tyrone Hill.

The Nuggets have lost four

straight games, all since the sudden resignation of head coach Dan Issel.

"Little Steve Colter comes up with an easy tip-in because we didn't match up on the boards," replacement coach Gene Littles moaned.

Cleveland led 92-89 with 2.8 seconds left in the first overtime Dale Ellis buried a left-angle 3-pointer. Ellis led Denver with 24 points and was 11-of-17 from the field.

"The shots made by Denver were just amazing," said Cleveland coach Mike Fratello. "They made some great shots to tie it in regulation and the first overtime. Sometimes you just shrug your shoulders and say hard work gets it done."

Colter, who finished with 16 points, hit a jumper in the paint to give the Cavaliers an 83-83 tie with 4.8 seconds left in regulation. The Cavs had blown an eight-point lead in the last five minutes of the fourth quarter.

In Philadelphia, Dana Bar-

ros scored a career-high 41 points and the 76ers allowed just three points in overtime, defeating the Los Angeles Lakers 117-113.

Barros hit 14-of-23 shots from the field, including 7-of-11 from 3-point range, leading the 76ers to just their second win in their last 12 games. Philadelphia rallied from a 16-point third-quarter deficit.

"We all kind of knew what we needed to do," Barros said. "We didn't roll over. We didn't quit. We fought back and that's the most important thing."

Cedric Ceballos led the Lakers with 33 points and 11 rebounds.

The Lakers' Nick Van Exel, who made a buzzer-beating, game-winning 3-pointer against Boston Friday, forced to when his driving layup with 9.4 seconds left in the fourth quarter tied the game at 110-110.

Ceballos scored the Lakers' only three points in overtime, all on free throws.

In Atlanta, Ken Norman scored 29 points as the Hawks edged the Boston Celtics 89-84.

Dominique Wilkins scored 15 points to lead Boston, which has lost four straight.

The Celtics played most of the second half with their coach as head coach Chris Ford sat most of the starters due to what he termed an ego problem.

"I asked the starters to look the bench players in the eye and tell them they didn't deserve to be out there," Ford said. "But these guys let their egos get in the way of winning a halfgame and I wind up playing the second half short-handed."

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Philadelphia	117	LA Lakers	113 (OT)
Seattle	117	Dallas	91
Milwaukee	120	Detroit	100
Cleveland	101	Denver	100 (OT)
Sacramento	92	LA Clippers	86
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